

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



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## £8.5m to improve railway stations

MORE than £10 million to be ploughed into improvements at rail stations across the West Midlands over the next two years, including work at Stourbridge Junction and Rowley Regis stations.

Train firm London Midland and transport authority Centro have struck a new deal.

It will see more CCTV cameras put in at stations, park and ride services improved, better ticket machines and a pilot smart-ticketing service introduced.

A total of £8.5m will be spent on improving park and ride at six stations including Rowley Regis and Stourbridge Junction.

Work on expanding the service at Rowley Regis will begin later this year as part of a £3m investment.

A further £1m will be invested by London Midland on station improvements across the region, including extended CCTV coverage.

The deal is an extension to a partnership agreement which was signed in 2011.

Councillor John McNicholas, chairman of Centro, said: "We are delighted to be signing a new agreement that will see us work together to continue to create a more user friendly, accessible railway."

## Computer is the business

INDEPENDENT family-run computer shop Colley Gate Computers has won an award at the inaugural ShopTalk National IT Reseller Awards, which were open to all independent IT resellers.

Colley Gate Computers in Windmill Hill, Cradley, was shortlisted in three of 10 categories and won for best website. Managing director Steve Keating said "It's amazing to be recognised by our fellow resellers."

"We'd have been delighted to win any category, but if we had to choose, this is the one we really wanted. Customer satisfaction is hugely important to us."

# I KILLED CHRISTINA - SCHIZOPHRENIC

by Alex Homer

**A PARANOID schizophrenic has admitted killing Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins by stabbing her in the chest as she travelled to school on a bus.**

Phillip Simelane has been ordered by a judge to be detained at a secure psychiatric hospital indefinitely.

Homeless Simelane's guilty plea at Birmingham Crown Court on Wednesday came as police reveal he was freed from prison less than three months before attacking the Leasowes High School pupil.

Despite 'warning markers' on his police record and a previous threat to stab his mother he was not placed under any care following his release in December.

Police had received 21 calls from his mother about his behaviour in just under 10 years. They included criminal damage and rows with his siblings.

Christina's family, who were in court for the hearing, demanded answers as a number of internal reviews were under way.

Mr Ryan Russell, defending, said after to speaking to Simelane on Tuesday he said; "I did not mean to kill that girl, I am ashamed for what happened and I wish to apologise."

Simelane plunged a knife, between 10 and 12in long, into the 16-year-old as she sat on the top deck of the number nine bus in a random attack. He then casually walked down the stairs and stepped off at a bus stop.

### Revealed

Mr Peter Grieves-Smith, prosecuting, said: "Such was the nature of the attack, nobody else on the upper deck realised what had happened until Christina reacted."

Passengers tried in vain to help Christina, of Ladywood, Birmingham.

Mr Grieves-Smith said Simelane had been on the bus for two and a half hours and when challenged by the driver produced a valid travel pass. It was later revealed this did not belong to him and the court heard he said he had got on the bus to sleep and keep warm.

Simelane, aged 23, of Walsall, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Christina on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

He had been accused of murder - but the Crown Prosecution Service and Christina's



Schoolgirl Christina Edkins - had dream of becoming a nurse

family accepted his manslaughter plea following reports on his mental health.

Superintendent Richard Baker said: "From their point of view, what the family want is to make sure that he's not free to inflict the same kind of pain that they have had to go through, so regardless that some may see the plea on manslaughter as a more lenient sentence, the family certainly do not see it that way at all and they are satisfied with the outcome."

Police said the reason behind his attack will almost certainly never be known as under the Mental Health Act he cannot be questioned by officers. Police said Simelane had been released from prison last December - exactly 12 weeks before he attacked Christina on the morning of March 7. He was in prison for breach of licence.

He had a total of seven previous convictions and had previously served a prison sentence for threatening his own mother with a knife. He also punched a police officer during his arrest. On the Police National Computer, Simelane was listed as having mental health issues and being a suicide risk, but officers were unable to say when

those 'warning markers' were added. Christina's family, who were wearing ribbons in her favourite colour purple, questioned why the court system did not make him the subject of a supervision order.

Great-uncle Chris Melia said: "When this man was discharged from prison on December 13, 2012, why was the recommendation - made a few weeks earlier by mental health experts - that he be supervised after release whilst adjusting to life back in the community, not followed up?"

### Release

Separate reviews are now being completed by the police, the prison service and the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Melia believes Christina would still be alive today if Simelane had been properly supervised on release, claiming instead that he had been allowed to simply drop off the radar of all the relevant agencies.

"As we understand it, it had been said by some mental health experts that he should receive some support and help or monitoring when back in the community and it just



Phillip Simelane - admitted manslaughter

didn't happen," said Mr Melia. Mrs Justice Thirlwall told Simelane: "The reason I give you this order is the nature of the offence and the fact that it occurred when you were medically ill and to protect the public from serious crime."

She continued: "It is difficult to understand how it came about that someone with your level of illness should be sleeping rough with no-one looking after you."

"Anyone who has sat here and listened and read the many statements will be disturbed to read that you were living in the community with an illness of that severity, living rough with no medical help or any other help at all."

Speaking to the family, she told them: "What shines through is that your daughter will always be cherished in the memories of family and friends and the wider world."

Christinahad been encouraged by her parents to attend a school out of Birmingham so she could get a better education and pursue her dream of being a nurse.

Headteacher Neil Shaw described her as 'a bright and popular student, much loved by staff and students'.

## Security is increased at club hit by arson

EXTRA security is to be installed at Lye Cricket Club after its £230,000 pavilion was gutted in an arson attack.

The club has announced restoration would begin on October 7 following talks with insurers.

And measures, including the installation of CCTV, are also to be put in place to safeguard the building against future attacks.

Members of the Stourbridge Road club were left devastated after the pavilion's interior was destroyed. It had been rebuilt in 2010 following earlier attack.

The club said the work was expected to take around five weeks to complete.

It will be re-opened soon after with officials still discussing if there should be a special celebration.

But they said security measures to protect the restored building would be a priority.

Alarms are also set to be upgraded following the blaze in August.

Club secretary Jake Hanson said they were pleased work would be starting so soon - with the aim of getting the pavilion reopened this year.

"The inside of the building will be totally stripped and new plasterwork and flooring being put in place," he said.

## Three charged after attack

THREE men have been charged over an alleged attack near The Arena Nightclub, Stourbridge in June.

Benjamin Payne, aged 19, of Chapel Street, Brierley Hill, and water board worker Mark Flavell, 44, of Manor Road, Wordsley, face grievous bodily harm charge. Technician Ryan Claridge, 20, of Barnett Lane, Kingswinford, was also charged with assault and possessing an offensive weapon. They will appear before Dudley Magistrates' on October 18.

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## NEWS

## CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	16
What's on	?
TV Listings	22
Property	27
Motoring	31
Classified	34
Sport	39-40

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## HS2 'will affect other train services'

HIGH-SPEED rail will lead to slower journeys and fewer trains for passengers from Sandwell and Dudley rail station, a report has warned.

The £50 billion HS2 would have a serious impact on services connecting the station in Oldbury, used by people in Dudley, with London, the research shows.

HS2 will take away existing fast trains which provide direct connections to London Euston because

long distance services will be transferred to the HS2 line.

The Taxpayer's Alliance (TPA) is calling for the project to be scrapped because of the spiralling costs and the detrimental effect it believes there will be on West Midlands travel.

It said Centro, the West Midlands passenger transport authority, is arguing for numerous additional services to maximise the benefits of

HS2. The TPA said: "These services would require significant subsidy." It claimed that journey time from Wolverhampton and Sandwell and Dudley stations would be longer as a result of more stops.

Chief executive of the TPA Matthew Sinclair said: "The Government's own plans show how many towns and cities would be left with a worse service."

A Department of Transport

spokesman said the report was 'blatant scaremongering'. And a survey by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Group said 71 per cent of its members believe high speed rail will have a positive impact in the West Midlands.

Official documents show HS2 will provide 26 more services a day between Wolverhampton and London Euston, but slower than the existing Virgin Pendolinos.

## Relaunch of loyalty card for charity shop chain

A CHARITY shop chain is relaunching its loyalty card after a successful pilot scheme.

Beacon Centre for the Blind's pilot project was hailed a big success earlier this year.

It has now been relaunched in its seven shops across the region. The scheme was inspired by the success of those like Tesco Clubcard.

Tracey Ford, retail operations manager if the Sedgley-based charity, said: "For every £5 our customers spend in one of our shops, they will get a stamp on their loyalty card."

"Each card has 10 stamps and for each completed card, customers will receive a £5 voucher to spend in the Beacon charity shop of their choice."

"It's a simple scheme which is open until February 2014, and customers can collect and complete as many loyalty cards as they want. The revenue that comes from our shops is essential in supporting that, and we are grateful to our customers. Those who donate goods and the volunteers who work in the shops, without whom we wouldn't be able to keep trading."

Beacon Centre supports people in the region with sight loss and has shops in Wolverhampton, Bilston, Bloxwich, Wednesbury, Cannock and Halesowen and the Sedgley centre.

## Shoppers go for duchess

MERRY Hill shoppers have voted new Royal mum, the Duchess of Cambridge, the person whose home they would most like to take a peek around.

Known for her immaculately turned out look, 19 per cent envy her home sense, believing it to be a reflection of her relaxed style with everything in its rightful place, according to a survey by homeware-for-less retailer HomeSense, which is base in the Westfield shopping centre.

## Partner judge

A PARTNER at law firm George Green has been named as an employment judge. Tim Lang will sit part time in the London North and West region. He has been a partner at George Green, which has offices in Cradley Heath and Wolverhampton, since 2003.

## Boyfriend stabbed his partner in her stomach

A MAN who stabbed his girlfriend in the stomach with a knife has escaped an immediate jail sentence after a judge heard he had been forgiven by his partner, who wants a future with him.

Emma Horton suffered serious injuries when she was stabbed by 22-year-old boyfriend Nathan Glover. The knife went four-and-a-half inches into her bowel and she required significant medical attention to recover.

At a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, Glover admitted stabbing her outside a friend's house in Sedgley. As a basis for a guilty plea for unlawful wounding, he claimed the stabbing was unintentional.

He said the incident happened while he turned to speak to her. He had the knife in his hand to open the front gate as they were leaving the house in Rowan Close, Sedgley, on June 15.

She cried throughout the hearing before celebrating when Recorder Jonathan Edwards spared Glover an immediate prison sentence.

## Earliest

Glover, who also admitted attempted burglary after demanding car keys from a nearby resident in a bid to get away, received a 15-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. He was also put on a domestic abuse programme.

The judge told him he could not have complained if he had been jailed but added: "You have displayed remorse, you pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity and most potently of all, the lady not only forgave you, but wants a life with you."

Glover, of Berrybush Gardens, Sedgley, admitted unlawful wounding after pleading not guilty to wounding with intent.

Mr Stephen Cadwallader, defending, said: "This was an isolated incident without any intention whatsoever."

## Man denies graffiti charge



Creagan Piesley - accused of breaching his Asbo

A MAN has appeared in court accused of criminal damage in his home town of Halesowen, and breaching an Asbo.

Creagan Piesley, aged 20, is alleged to have sprayed graffiti over door shutters at an architectural ironmongers shop in Halesowen, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard.

Piesley, of Hedgefield Grove, Coley Gate, is also accused of breaching an anti-social behaviour order which banned him from holding spray paint in public.

The two-year Asbo was imposed on him after he was convicted of shoplifting and criminal damage in November 2011.

At the hearing on Tuesday, Piesley denied both charges and the case was adjourned.

## Imposed

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said police saw four people spraying graffiti on the shutters to the shop called Inspired in Long Lane on August 31 at 9.55pm.

Piesley's Asbo expires on November 16. But magistrates imposed conditions to his bail which mean he will not be able to carry any spray on marker pens in public until he reappears before them.

His trial will be at Dudley Magistrates' Court on December 9.

Piesley's court appearance comes a week after dozens of homes, businesses and cars in the Howley Grange estate of Halesowen were targeted with graffiti.

Piesley has not charged in connection with that graffiti.

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## Councillor decides to step down



Councillor Colin Wilson

A COUNCILLOR has announced he is stepping down from his role after almost a decade representing the authority.

Dudley Councillor Colin Wilson will leave his post at the end of his term in May next year.

He makes his announcement as he continues to recover from a period of ill health. Councillor Wilson was elected to represent the Pedmore and Stourbridge East ward in 2004. He has held the ward seat ever since.

Fellow Conservative Mike Wood has been selected as the party's candidate for the ward to take over from Councillor Wilson.

Mr Wood, aged 37, of Langdale Way, is a researcher for Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Councillor Wilson said: "I have really enjoyed the past eight-and-a-half years working for my local community but I know that now is the right time to step down."

## Waggon to roll in music

A PUB is getting into the swing of new music nights, with its first 'open mic' event and a forthcoming gig by an award-winning Shadows tribute group.

The Old Waggon and Horses, at Stourbridge Road, Ismere, between Kidderminster and Stourbridge, will host the open mic event on Friday, starting at 7pm. The pub is teaming up with the Wyre Forest VDub Club and is inviting local people to bring their acts along. Then, on October 13, starting at 8pm, Out of the Shadows will return to the Waggon and Horses.

Five days after the Waggon and Horses gig the band will receive an award from Worcestershire Entertainment Committee after being voted top club act in the county.

# Conman jailed over fake bike ride for charity

A PROLIFIC conman who convinced people to sign sponsorship forms for a fake charity bike ride for Cancer Research has been jailed for 16 months.

David Armson had 81 convictions for fraud and deception going back to 2004, before he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Paul Reid, prosecuting, said the 24-year-old was spotted by an off-duty police officer on Bridgworth Road, Stourbridge, on April 29, visiting shops asking for sponsorship. The court heard the officer 'was aware of his past'.

On this occasion, Armson, of Greenwood Avenue, Rowley Regis, was 'adamant' his name was Adam David Timmins and even produced a photo card driving licence.

He told the officer he was collecting for a

Cancer Research bike ride he was going to do. Police however sent a fingerprint scanner out to the location. Mr Reid said inquiries revealed six businesses had donated around £15 before Armson's arrest and he was found with £42 cash.

Mr Reid said: "He initially said he had not collected any money that day but said he would be coming back to collect. The sponsorship forms also contained fictitious details which the Crown says was to encourage more donations.

"People had donated money in good faith believing they were giving money to Cancer Research."

The court was told Armson gave no comment in police interview. Mr Reid also said the defendant was subject to a suspended 16-week prison sentence for a similar ruse, imposed in October

last year, when he tried his latest scam. The court was told that Armson pleaded guilty at Dudley Magistrates Court on July 29 of six counts of making a false representation to make a gain for himself, another charge of possessing or controlling an identity document with intent, and possessing an article for use in a fraud.

Mr Eeky Tiwana, defending, claimed there had been a 'sea change' in his client's attitude after he had been a chronic drug addict, starting smoking cannabis aged 12, and later moving onto heroin.

But Judge Walsh decided he did not deserve another chance from the courts, and activated the previous 16-week suspended sentence, as well as adding a further 12-month sentence for the latest fraud. Armson was also ordered to pay a £100 statutory surcharge.



Conman David Armson

# Comic Lenny added to roll of honour before accolade

by Alex Ross

LENNY Henry has been added to the historic roll of honour at Dudley Council House – before he is presented with the Freedom of Borough.

The popular Dudley-born funnyman and Comic Relief campaigner will be at the town hall on October 9 to receive the scroll. Lenny said he was 'deeply humbled and honoured' to receive the award.

He will join a list of names which include mountain climber and peace campaigner MBE Bert Bissell.

The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, The Mercian Regiment and The 37th Signal Regiment have also received the freedom of the borough.

To mark the honour, each body and person's name is added to the historic roll of honour at the town Council House. Lenny is the first individual to get the honour in 13 years.

### Puzzled

The former Blue Coat School pupil, who often uses the town in stage stories on his childhood, said: "I am deeply humbled and honoured to be receiving the freedom of the borough of Dudley. I know in my heart of hearts that if my parents were alive they would be a little bit puzzled but also incredibly proud of this achievement."

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "Lenny has helped put Dudley on the map and it is great to see his name added to the roll of honour."

Lenny will receive the honour in recognition of his services to entertainment and his contribution to global fundraising.

Councillors voted to grant Lenny the honour in Febru-



Honour – Lenny Henry

ary. The idea was first proposed last September, but a decision was stalled after councillors asked for a criteria on who qualified to be an Honorary Freeman.

Conservative leader on the council, Councillor Patrick Harley, had wanted the criteria to only fit people who had made a specific contribution to Dudley and its residents, but his motion was defeated. Councillors then voted for Lenny to receive the honour.

In addition to his work as a comedian, actor and writer, Lenny Henry has also helped raise over £800 million pounds for charity over the last 27 years by being one of the founders of Comic Relief in 1985. The honour follows on from the CBE he received from the Queen in 1999.

## NEWS in brief

### Event at valley is put on hold

A MAJOR event to raise money for a Black Country mayor's charities has been postponed after poor weather was forecast and because of a lack of people signing up to take part.

Activities were set to take place over last Saturday and Sunday in Sandwell Valley Park, including a sponsored walk, mountain bike trail and family entertainment.

The event was being staged to raise funds for Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Linda Horton's two selected charities. It has now been put back until the spring.

Council spokesman Chris Horst said: "Due to lack of entrants and a mixed weather forecast, we've taken the decision to postpone the fundraising weekend until the spring when the weather is better."

"Sorry to anyone who is disappointed. We'll let you know the new date when we have it."

### Jewellery fair is ready to sparkle

AN ANNUAL fair showcasing the work of Black Country artists will take place on Saturday.

Netherton Arts Centre, in Northfield Road in Dudley, holds its annual art and jewellery fair from 11am to 4pm. Following the event, an exhibition for the work will be displayed in the centre's Old Library Room until October 11.

At the fair there will also be arts workshops. Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It is an early Christmas shopping opportunity for people looking to buy something just a little bit special."

### Firecrews called to computer blaze

A COMPUTER caught fire in a school as crews used a thermal imaging camera to help them put out the smouldering embers. Fire crews were called to Haybridge High School, Hagley, near Stourbridge, on Monday of last week.

Firefighters from Kidderminster arrived and used the thermal imaging equipment to pinpoint the hot spots. No-one was injured and only minor disruption was caused.

### Quiz for charity

GRIFFITHS & Peggs' 13th annual charity quiz is at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill, on November 11.

## Helping to salvation to unemployed



James Morris, right, with Captain Liz Hancock from Cradley Heath Salvation Army and back, from left, Paul Taylor, lead trainer from QTT, Richard Loach of the Salvation Army, PPDG contract manager Angela Takyar and Mitch Bhanra

AN INITIATIVE created by the Salvation Army in Cradley Heath to help long-term unemployed people back into work has been praised by the area's MP.

The organisation's Employment Plus service, based at the Cradley Heath Community Centre, Reddall Hill Road, sees around 60 people a day come along and is actively involved in helping more than 800 people back into employment.

The charitable organisation is

working alongside the Jobcentre to deliver the work programmes, which provide companies and jobseekers with incentives to keep them in work for more than six months.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, visited the centre a day after his own successful jobs fair that saw more than 1,500 people get employment advice.

He said: "This service is doing important work to tackle long-term unemployment, which is an issue we

need to reduce. I think it's essential that something like this exists in the community."

The Cradley Heath base has been offering the Employment Plus service since July 2010 and works with local businesses, training providers, and employment agencies to help get people back into work. Captain Elizabeth Hancock, from the base in Meredith Street, said: "We felt this was a way our church could help those in our own community in a practical way."

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## NEWS

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POOR old devil, I thought, as a mobility scooter wobbled uncertainly towards me on the pavement, the driver hunched awkwardly over the handlebars, seemingly unable to lift his head. What terrible deformity makes somebody so bent? Turned out he wasn't deformed at all. He was texting.

□□□□□□

WHILE Labour and Tory politicians heap scorn upon Ukip, remember this: Ukip is their child. The Labour and Conservative governments created the policies on the EU and immigration which gave birth to Ukip. They sustained those policies with lies and deception which nurtured the growing infant. Today, Ukip is a stropky adolescent with an awful lot of bad friends and its parents know that, before long, it will punch them very hard. That is why Fleet Street's finest, who support a two-party system, set out to scupper Ukip's conference. But I suspect most voters recognise an ambush when they see one, and may even sympathise with the embattled Nigel Farage. The EU Parliament elections are next year and, barring a disaster, I expect Mr Farage's party to give the Tories such a whacking that Call-me-Dave will feel a sudden urge to dump his adopted child Nick and embrace his true son Nigel.

□□□□□□

ED Balls, hoping to be the next Chancellor, says he would scrap HS2 if the costs rose. So is this the end of the line? Don't bank on it. There is a theory that Balls is merely "surfing the wave" of public opposition to HS2. Some readers may recall that in the 1990s John Prescott told protesters that a Labour government would not build the controversial M6 Toll, then known as BNR, the Birmingham Northern Relief Road. Labour got elected. It was built.

□□□□□□

THE Daily Mail's latest columnist, introduced with a huge fanfare ("wickedly mischievous!") a few weeks ago, is one Sarah Vine. In this week's offering she complains that her husband has "almost as many pictures of the late Margaret Thatcher in his office as there are of me and the children." Hubby sounds a bit weird, unless you happen to know that in private life Sarah Vine is Mrs Michael Gove, wife of the Secretary of State for Education.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Crash tragedy driver admits causing death

## Star Tuffers bowls them over

CRICKET star Phil Tufnell turned on the charm as he regaled them with tales from the Ashes and gossip from the dressing room to delight audiences at a charity bash.

The ex-England spin bowler, now a TV star, has become known as much for his off the field antics as his skills with a cricket ball.

There was much material to delve into as he took to the stage as after-dinner speaker at an event in Brierley Hill last week. Tufnell was guest at a fundraiser for the Midlands Air Ambulance and spinal injuries charity Trust PA at the Copthorne Hotel at The Waterfront.

"I've spoken to quite a few cricket fans here tonight excited about the Ashes this winter," he said. "I don't think it is going to be quite as straightforward as this summer."

Air ambulance regional fundraising manager Sophia Voutianitis said: "It is wonderful to have Phil here and we have to thank Jilly Edge, from Events with the Edge, who organised the evening."

"We have to raise £6 million a year to keep the aircraft in the sky so we need all the support we can get."



Phil Tufnell with fundraising manager Sofia Voutianitis and a signed photograph of him to be sold

A MAN from Stourbridge has admitted causing the death of his girlfriend in a road crash. Thomas Whitehouse was driving a Vauxhall Astra when he hit a tree on the A449 in Cookley in December last year.

His 26-year-old girlfriend Samantha Jennings, who was sat in the front passenger seat, died in the crash.

At an inquest into the mother's death earlier this year, Mr Whitehouse said he could not remember the crash or the evening.

But appearing at Worcester Crown Court, Whitehouse, aged 23, of Burns Close, pleaded guilty to causing her death by careless driving. He also admitted to possessing cannabis.

A test following the fatal crash found no alcohol in Whitehouse's blood, but cannabis was detected, although it was unknown how much was taken.

### Reasonable

The pair had driven back from Birmingham and had picked up two people, including friend Leander Mock, who was sat in the back seat when the vehicle crashed.

At the inquest at Worcester-shire Coroners Court in April, Mr Mock said: "I only saw Tom (Whitehouse) have one drink all evening and we were going at a reasonable speed not going above the limit." He said he had felt 'a bump' before the car started to skid and it felt like the

rear tyres had left the road.

The inquest also heard that none of the car passengers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash.

Miss Jennings, who is from Aldridge Close in Wordsley, died at the crash scene near the Island Pool pub, on December 8. She had two boys aged eight and nine and worked as a care assistant, looking after adults with disabilities.

She was a former pupil of the Glyne Primary School and Summerhill School in Kingswinford.

In a tribute following her death, her family said: "Sam was a caring person, an angel. Sam was vivacious, a party girl, who lived life to the full. She had the world at her feet, and was so happy."

Days following her death, her family suffered a second blow when thieves ransacked the home of her 83-year-old grandmother in Kingswinford. Whitehouse will be sentenced at Worcester Crown Court on November 29.

## Graffiti art skills wall unlikely to be rebuilt

A GRAFFITI wall knocked down by vandals at a park is unlikely to be rebuilt amid fears it would be targeted again.

The wall was built as a place for graffiti artists to practice their skills as part of improvements to King George V Park, in Wordsley.

But just hours after being put up by students from Dudley College, the wall was torn down by yobs.

Members of the Friends of Wordsley Park had worked hard to provide the wall for youngsters using the park.

Following the destruction during the early hours of Friday September 20, they said other options were now being considered for the scheme.

And while a final decision has yet to be made members said it was unlikely they would rebuild the wall.

Another option being considered is fitting a metal sheet to fencing around an existing multi-use games area at the park which youngsters could graffiti.

Ward councillor Derrick Hemmingsley said it was a 'shame' the original plan was now likely to be abandoned.

"A lot of people wanted this wall to be built and had been involved in securing the materials and constructing it," he said. "The wall has been attacked once and is likely to be so again if we carry on."

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## Boost for homes in borough at village

DUDLEY is set to see the supply of new homes in the town boosted with the sale of a 4.76 acre former industrial site within Saltwells Nature Reserve.

There is currently outline planning permission for up to 70 homes situated off Saltwells Lane.

The Saltwells Village site is next to Mushroom Green village and conservation area, and is within walking distance of Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

It is being marketed by Midlands-based agent Jon Flowth & Partner, with planning permission granted for the demolition of a 100,000 sq ft industrial unit at the gateway to Saltwells Nature Reserve, which was previously occupied by Kuehne & Nagel.

Jon Flowth, senior partner of Jon Flowth & Partners, said: "The plans for Saltwells Village look set to breathe new life into a former industrial site, giving Dudley homebuyers the very rare opportunity to live within one of the UK's largest urban nature reserves."

According to data from Zoopla, Dudley has been one of the top performing areas in the UK this year, with the average house price rising by almost seven per cent over the last six months.

Elizabeth Flowth, senior surveyor said: "This is excellent news for homebuyers."

# Nothing left for appeal on Luke's conviction – family

**THEY remortgaged their home twice, have taken out a bank loan and are paying off up to four credit cards – but the family of a man convicted of killing his girlfriend are yet to raise a penny towards an appeal hearing to clear his name.**

Luke Walker was convicted of causing the death of his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman while on holiday in Crete by a Greek court following a two-day trial earlier this year.

The 24-year-old has always protested his innocence and his family has backed him in his battle, which has proved costly in legal bills.

After his conviction Luke's grandmother gave her life savings towards a £8,522 bail surety to bring him home after he appealed, which resulted in an eight-year prison sentence being suspended.

### Credit

But today, the family from Brierley Hill are yet to begin saving for the appeal hearing next year – instead they are still paying off debts accumulated from the initial trial. A £17,000 solicitor's bill is yet to be paid from the trial and they are still paying off thousands of pounds in credit cards and loans.

Luke's older brother Ryan, aged 31, said: "We are in a nightmare – it's almost like we are beyond help right now."

"We want to save but we are so stretched at the moment by paying off the last trial and solicitors bills that we can't yet start putting money toward the next hearing yet."

"We're paying off three to four credit cards, a couple of mortgages and a loan – I think it is about £50,000 worth in total."

"We think the next trial is going to cost



Luke Walker with his father, Patrick, who, with the rest of the family, has continued to back him in the fight to clear his name

another £20,000 to £30,000 as we have to fly everyone out there, the witness and medical people – we have to pay for the whole lot.

"But we have to do it, we have to clear Luke's name. We have thought about what if we can't, of course, but we must believe. We're praying we win the lottery, or anything."

Ryan has moved out of his parents house in Gayfield Avenue, Withymoor, ahead of his parents Patrick and Lindy selling the family home to rent another property in the area.

He said: "We wanted the best possible defence, but it has cost us and now we are paying for it, plus we have to start all over

again now. We've ended up losing everything, it's been a really difficult few years for everyone connected."

Ryan works alongside his father Patrick, runs Walker's Electrics in Brierley Hill.

"We hope the equity from the house will pay off the debts and leave us a bit of money for going back over there," said Patrick.

"We have to find somewhere to rent, it is sad, because everything we have done for our lives has gone. But at the end of the day it's our son and we will do everything for him to prove his innocence."

The jury at the Mixed Criminal Court of Heraklion heard how Chelsea, from Castle-



Luke with his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman, age 20



Luke Walker leaves a court hearing in Greece along with friends and members of his family

ford in West Yorkshire, had died after she was taken to hospital with abdominal pains. Chelsea, who lived with Luke on the island, was pronounced dead on May 17 2010 from acute peritonitis, having suffered deteriorating health for a few days.

Greek prosecutors claimed she was beaten by Luke – but Luke said the injuries came from when she fell on a cobbled street during a night out 10 days before she died.

Luke was initially charged with murdering Chelsea, but this was downgraded to a lesser charge of grievous bodily harm leading to death. The appeal is expected to take place at the end of May next year.

## NEWS in brief

### Kittens found dumped in box

TWELVE kittens were dumped in a cardboard box on a car park next to a busy main road – prompting animal welfare charity bosses to appeal for information to trace the owner.

A walker found inside a towel-covered McCoy's crisp box outside Laser Quest in Amblecote High Street. They took the kittens, aged between six and seven weeks old, home before alerting the RSPCA the next day. It is believed the kittens, which were found last Tuesday, are from at least two litters.

They are now in good health and are being cared for at a RSPCA Centre. It is believed they were dumped between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on Tuesday.

Five of the kittens are tabby and white while the rest are black with some white markings. Anyone who has information can call 0300 123 8018.

### Beer boost for mayor's appeal

A PUB has brewed up a treat for real ale lovers in aid of a good cause. The Old Swan in Netherton, known locally as Ma Pardo's, has launched its latest ale, Golden Chains, in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The golden beer will go on sale at the pub in Halesowen Road, Netherton, and dozens of other real ale pubs which receive its deliveries and are looking to support the charity venture.

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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

SHOCK news from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, which concluded last week that it was '95 per cent certain' that climate change, exists.

A bit of a surprise really, because I'm sure most of us were expecting them to say something along the lines of 'we're pretty sure there's no such thing as climate change, so you can make us all redundant'.

Still, the news has got Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a little bit rattled. He wants leaders of the world to come together next year for an international climate summit.

Of course he does. People like him love summits, don't they? Summits on world energy, a summit on sustainable development, a summit on the EU budget and no doubt summit for the weekend.

Still, at least we can expect it to be a little different from the usual run-of-the-mill banquet and booze-up.

For a start, none of the delegates will be arriving on one of those filthy jumbo jets which pollute the sky. Instead they will all be packed like sardines into crowded transcontinental railway carriages, having arrived in mainland Europe or wherever by car ferry.

And instead of being chauffeured to the conference hall in a convoy of gleaming gas-guzzling limousines, the world leaders will all be making their entrance by means of 'sustainable transport' - which presumably means a bike. And what would you say are the odds of any of this happening?

Well a report from the Inter-governmental Panel on Flying Pigs has come to the conclusion that it is 'more than 95 per cent' certain that none of the above will take place.

THIS week hundreds of commuters in London were greeted at the railway stations by anti-smoking campaigners in zombie costumes urging them to give up the clips.

Given that this was the early-morning rush hour, perhaps they were trying to blend into their surroundings.

CAN'T buy into all the scare stories that 'the lights will go out' if Ed Milliband goes ahead with his plans to freeze energy prices for 20 months.

After all, there were very tight regulations imposed on the energy companies after they were privatised 20-odd years ago, and it seemed to work then.

Trouble is, now that Ed has given two years advanced notice of his plans, the energy companies will almost certainly decide to get in first and put the prices up while they still can. Not that they need much encouraging.



Mr Hill and Brenda, who got wed in 1947



Just a number - prisoners of war at Changi Prison where Mr Hill was sent



Mr Hill's Prisoner medal at the front

# Former PoW tells of horrific jungle ordeal

LOUISE JEW speaks to a true survivor, Ken Hill, who spent three-and-a-half years in captivity at the hands of the Japanese during the Second World War

TO THE Japanese, Ken Hill was just a number - 7601985 - forced to slave day after day on the infamous Burma railway, kept barely alive by stomach-churning rations of rice, with beetles and maggots as the only protein.

Amazingly, while thousands of his comrades fell victim to die from exhaustion or cholera, Netherton-born Ken is a true survivor who has made old bones, despite three-and-a-half years in captivity that reduced him to a near-skeleton.

He's now 92, with very poor sight, having also fought through three serious operations for ulcers and stomach cancer - possibly caused by his appalling abuse under the brutal Japanese thumb.

More than 70 years after he was captured, he still carries around his PoW number tag, light as a feather, in his back pocket.

It is not that he has dwelled upon his harrowing ordeal during the Second World War - he's had a 66-year-long marriage to wife, Brenda, raised two sons, lovingly tended his canal-side garden in High Street, Swindon, near Dudley, and enjoyed a long career as an electrician.

It is only over the last few years that the great grandfather has opened up to family and friends about his horrific experiences and, following this month's 68th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, he has spoken more freely.

He's never asked for any help.

Some years ago he was turned down for a war pension but he is now getting support from Blind Veterans UK, which he joined last October and which has arranged an alarm button for him to carry



True survivor - war veteran and former Prisoner of War Kenneth Hill, aged 92

around his neck, a speaking alarm clock and breaks for him and Brenda at seaside hotels around England and Wales.

Ken joined the Territorial Army Field Workshop in June 1939, aged just 18, and at the end of 1941 he and his unit sailed to Singapore, where they set up a workshop to maintain guns.

In February 1942 the forces in Singapore surrendered to the Japanese after a siege, as soldiers scavenged in the streets in search of food and water.

They didn't given in with a whimper - and Ken recalls how, when General Arthur Percival surrendered, he and his colleagues took up their instructions to smash the machines in the workshop, scupper a large crane,

ity - cholera, the threat of torture if he did not behave and even the fear of execution.

He said: "The brutality of the Japanese guards is well known and they would use the dreaded 'speedo' - a bamboo stick that they would hit people with as they yelled 'speedo, speedo,' to make them work faster.

"There were 7,000 of us to start with - but in the first six months 4,000 died and I don't think any more than 1,000 survived the war. I was lucky as I was young and fit. I remained healthy and that generally kept me safe."

It was the news of the atomic bomb attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August 1945 that brought about the end of the war in the Far East and secured the release of Ken and his comrades.

"That bomb saved our lives," he said. Ken added: "At last it was time to return home and we boarded a boat for Southampton."

"Our first meal on board was rice. There was almost a riot but the captain explained that doctors said as we'd eaten rice for three-and-a-half years our stomachs wouldn't initially be able to take rich foods. They gradually built us up to eat properly - and I haven't been able to eat rice since."

It was only after he returned he realised the untold anguish his parents, Ernie and Elsie had been through. They had barely received notice that Ken and his brother Geoff were prisoners of the Japanese.

Now Ken marks VJ Day, as he has done every year, by thinking of everyone he knew during that awful time.

"I keep the steel plate with my name, rank and number in my back pocket to remind me. I do it for everyone I knew and for the thousands of men and women who lost their lives," he said.

Blind Veterans UK launched a 'No One Alone' campaign in October 2012 and wants vision-impaired veterans and their families to know that, if they have served their country, no matter in which conflict, they can get help, including training, rehabilitation and holidays at [www.noonealone.org.uk](http://www.noonealone.org.uk) or by phoning 0800 389 7979.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

## 1983...

SPEEDWAY fans were lucky to escape serious injury when a lump of concrete smashed through the roof of their coach from a motorway flyover. The Cradley Heath fans were returning from seeing their side race at Eastbourne when vandals hurled a 9in block of concrete from a bridge in Buckinghamshire.

GRANNY Hilda Fellows was tickled pink when she met comedian Ken Dodd and his merry band of ditty men. Mrs Fellows, from Walsall, was one of hundreds of fans who turned out to see the funnyman open Boardman's furniture store in Market Street, Wolverhampton.

THE number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose to more than 3.1 million to give a new jobless rate of 13.3 per cent. The rise was mainly down to the number of school-leavers claiming benefit for the first time. In the West Midlands, unemployment rate rose to 16 per cent.

## 1993...

IN North Yorkshire it was reported that a 13-year-old arsonist was enjoying a round of 'adventure holidays' at the taxpayers' expense. As part of a two-year supervision order, the youngster, from Richmond, had spent two weeks at a summer camp in Britain, had been on two sailing courses, and had stayed on the shore of a Swedish lake.

STRIKES by Britain's firemen were 'inevitable' said their union leader. The Fire Brigades Union was about to ballot its members about strike action in response to a 1.5 per cent ceiling on public-sector pay rises. Home Secretary Michael Howard said there was no justification for giving firefighters preferential treatment. But FBU leader Ken Cameron accused the Government of putting the public at risk for a marginal amount of money.

## 2003...

WINDOW tycoon Carl Painter was one of the first potential investors to express an interest in taking Wolves over, after owner Sir Jack Hayward said he would be offering the club 'free to a good home'. The Wolves chairman said he would give the club free of charge if somebody came forward with a commitment to invest in the club's future. Mr Painter said he would be prepared to put £10 million into the club.

BRUMMIE Cat Deeley was to host the Royal Variety Performance, it was announced, with tenor Luciano Pavarotti sharing the bill with chart stars Busta Rhymes, Gloria Estefan and Donny Osmond.

SINGER Robert Palmer died of a heart attack, aged 54.

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## LETTERS

# Lots of trouble at the checkout

MYSELF and my 42-year-old mother were stood at the checkout at a branch of Home Bargains after a brief shop when the special offer of four bottles of Carlsberg alerted our attention as an ideal purchase for an upcoming family event.

As my mum had proceeded in beginning to put our items in a bag, she asked me to quickly pick up a single box of the lagers, which I did before placing them on the conveyor belt. When the frankly rude and abrupt employee at the checkout got around to scanning the lagers,

she stopped and with a huff said: "I can't serve you these." When we queried why, the emp-loyee decided that because, I, as a 6ft 4in university student had physically plucked the 'restricted age items' from the shelf, my mum was unable to purchase them.

We were bemused, and left even more perplexed as we remained polite and decided against argument.

My mum then completed the transaction, before returning to the rear of the queue without me with a new box of lagers, only to be told uncompromis-

ingly, 'you're attempting to buy these for someone under age, we cannot serve you'. Admittedly, I was not carrying any ID, but to refuse selling alcohol to a 42-year-old on the false presumption that I would be the consumer appears lacking in common sense.

Would there be a similar outcome if a child was asked to retrieve a bottle of wine from the bottom shelf for a parent/guardian unable to bend?

**JOSH CRAMPTON,**  
Warner Drive, Amblecote.

## Hodge's top ideas for billions

I WAS delighted to hear Margaret Hodge on the Today programme suggesting that the HS2 budget would be better spent on improving the existing rail lines and trains.

She suggested a line from Bristol to Liverpool. Both ideas are excellent.

Therefore, would she and her colleagues not like the £40-50 billion for HS2 to be spent on returning trains and stations to the 13 miles of existing double track rail lines between Stourbridge, Dudley and Walsall in the congested West Midlands?

Or, completing the electrification of our rail network, started in the 1950 but, still not finished? Switzerland did theirs in the 1920s and 30s.

Or, turning our 19th century rail network of Victorian signal boxes (the one at Round Oak, Brierley Hill in Dudley was burned to the ground in the 1990s so that is one less). In addition, New Street Station the rail bottleneck of the UK.

**TIM WELLER,**  
Halesowen.

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Halesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

## Still buildings that need to be dealt with

I READ that Dudley Council has helped to bring about the opening of a new restaurant, in Charlton House on the corner of New Street and Priory Street in Dudley. How much longer will The Crown on the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Priory Street remain empty?

I remember reading that they spent thousands 'doing up' that building, but it is a long-standing eyesore with muslin slung across the windows and no sign of occupancy. Anyone willing to say? Also, whilst on the subject of derelict buildings, what about Welcome Home Designs at the top end of Wolverhampton Street, also one of the gateways into Dudley? This building is anything but welcoming.

**MRS L SHELTON,** The Broadway, Dudley.

## Selfish petrolheads

IT IS good to see that Dudley Council has decided to lock the car park gate at the Tenscore in Sedgley. This is because of certain people who have no care for others.

Petrolheads revving their engines and blasting their horns and, in some cases, smashing the small wooden boundary fence round the car park and driving on the grass. Unfortunately, it spoils the chance of families using the Tenscore on a weekend because the car park is locked.

**NORMAN D CADDICK,** Up'r Ettingshall Rd, Coseley.

## Aid gripes are ignored

AS I have said before, Joe Public can shout about our money going to deserts all they want but it falls on deaf ears. There are millions of people in our country this money should go to.

We are trillions of pounds in debt and what do the brains of Britain do, borrow more to send in the form of aid to a country that claimed they didn't need it? Get our country right and put us first Dave for a change.

**JOHN PERKINS,**  
Dudley.

## Thanks for cash boost

THE members of the Stourbridge branch of the Royal Air Forces Association wish to thank everyone who supported us over the Battle of Britain weekend. Due to their usual generosity, this year's Wings Appeal raised £1,921 which will be used for the welfare support of RAFA for ex-members of the Royal Air Force.

**THE REV TOM CHAPMAN,**  
Branch secretary.

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## NEWS



How Corngreaves Hall looked before the restoration



Work in progress to bring the hall back to its former glory

# Restoration of historic hall gets heritage praise

**HERITAGE** bosses have praised work which has given a new lease of life to a historic Grade II listed building.

Corngreaves Hall in Cradley Heath was restored and turned into flats after years of standing empty and being targeted by thieves and vandals.

Sandwell Council awarded the project to developers GR8 Space after carrying out a tendering exercise.

And now English Heritage has awarded a commendation to both organisations in recognition of the work.

Restoration was monitored and approved by a council-appointed surveyor and planning services advised GR8 Space on the proposed scheme.

Borough deputy council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "I am proud English Heritage has recognised our efforts and those of GR8 Space to protect the borough's heritage."

Corngreaves Hall was bought by the former Rowley Regis Council in 1950.

The transformation of the hall cost in the region of £3 million with apartments at the development snapped up before work had been completed.

The former stately home dates back



Restored - the award-winning work of Corngreaves Hall is complete

to 1780 but had been empty for more than 60 years.

The renovation plans saw nine apartments created, as well as homes in the grounds.

As well as contributing cash towards

the refurbishment project, Sandwell Council handed over 10,408 sq ft of land free of charge.

Chiefs said by transferring land, the council would avoid future maintenance costs.

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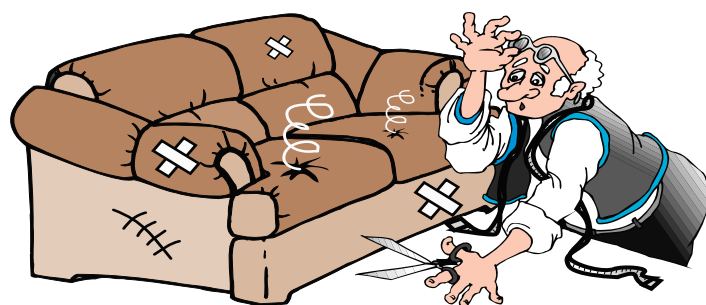
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## NEWS

# BMX girl's agony after motorbike hit and run

**A SCHOOLGIRL has spoken of her agony after she was knocked off a BMX by a motorcyclist who rode away from the scene in Netherton.**

Courtney Taylor, aged 14, was riding her friend's bike close to her home when she said she was clipped by a motorbike.

The Thorns Community College pupil was left dazed and in pain at the side of the road with a broken bone in her knee.

She faces a long period of rehabilitation with her leg in plaster and her family has called for the motorcyclist to come forward and speak to police.

The accident happened at around 8.15pm last Tuesday in Cradley Road.

Courtney had reached the junction of Primrose Road just 500 yards from her house in Old Level Way when she went to cross onto the opposite pavement.

## Lucky

But she claimed the motorcyclist who was riding behind her struck her right leg, sending her careering off and skidding onto the road.

The teenager, who has just started her GCSEs, said she was lucky and just managed to pull herself onto the pavement despite the pain.

The motorcyclist briefly stopped as three passers-by went to her aid but she said he complained about injuring his hand before riding off without leaving any details or asking how he was. He was wearing a black coat and jeans but kept his helmet on.

"I was in shock really as I couldn't believe it and I'm sure he didn't have his light on as I looked and couldn't see him," Courtney said. "I was in so much pain. I needed painkillers every three hours in hospital."

Her mother Shirley Taylor, 36, said: "We don't know how someone could just leave her like that and not even check that she was OK."

West Midlands Police confirmed officers are investigating and are appealing for witnesses to call 101.



Courtney Taylor, who was knocked off her bike by a motorcyclist

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## October

		Adult	Child	Senior
Sat 5th	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford-upon-Avon (2 seats for £20)	£13	£11	£12
Thur 10th	London Shopping Trip	£15	£15	£15
Tues 15th	Cotswolds - Moreton-in-Marsh Market + Bourton-on-the-Water (2 seats for £20)	£13	£11	£12
Sat 19th	Blackpool Illuminations	£17	£15	£16
Mon 28th	Harry Potter Studio Tour (London) (Half Term)	£55	£45	£55
Wed 30th	Alton Towers Resort 'Scarefest'	£40	£35	£28
Thur 31st	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Adults Only)	£22		£22

Pick up points in Halesowen



## November

		Adult	Child	Senior
Fri 1st	Blackpool Illuminations	£17	£15	£16
Sat 2nd	Ragley Hall 'Bonfire & Firework Event'	£17	£15	£16
Sun 2nd	Wellesbourne Market + Stratford-upon-Avon (2 seats for £20)	£13	£11	£12
Sun 3rd	Drayton Manor 'Fireworks Spectacular'	£30	£28	£25
Fri 8th	Weston 'Illuminated Carnival'	£18	£16	£17
Wed 13th	The Whitting Inn 'Best of British Show' (Adults Only)	£28		£27
Sun 17th	Trafford Centre (Manchester)	£14	£12	£13
Thur 21st	Cheshire Oaks Designer Factory Outlet	£14	£12	£13
Fri 22nd	Gloucester Victorian Christmas Market	£16	£13	£15
Sat 23rd	Chester Victorian Christmas Market	£16	£13	£15
Tue 26th	Bath (Shopping & Sightseeing)	£15	£13	£14
Thur 28th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Adults Only)	£22		£22
Fri 29th	Worcester Victorian Christmas Market Fayre	£14	£12	£13
Sat 30th	Santa Safari (West Midlands Safari Park)	£19	£21	£17

## December

		Adult	Child	Senior
Sun 1st	York - St Nicholas Christmas Fayre	£17	£14	£16
Fri 6th	Lincoln Christmas Market	£17	£13	£15
Sat 7th	(Brochure Date incorrect) Cheltenham Christmas Market	£15	£13	£14
Sat 7th	Wellesbourne Market + Stratford-upon-Avon (2 seats for £20)	£13	£11	£12
Sun 8th	Bath Christmas Market	£16	£14	£15
Wed 11th	Matilda (London Theatre) Matinee Show	£69	£69	£69
Wed 11th	London Christmas Shopping	£15	£15	£15
Wed 11th	Les Miserables (London Theatre) Matinee Show	£65	£65	£65

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## MEMORY LANE



Peter's sweet shop in Castle Street, seen just before it closed down in 1969, no doubt frequented by young Des



A typical street in Kates Hill, Dudley, near to the school



St Edmund's Church's clock was visible from the Baylies Charity School, Tower Street



Watson's Green Road, Dudley - Des moved here with his family when he was young

THE RECENT article about the early life in Dudley of Duncan Edwards has prompted Des Stokes to write in - as he knew the father of the acclaimed footballer 'who like myself used the Dudley Labour Club in Stafford Street'.

Des himself was born and raised in Dudley and shares with us his memories of his schooldays.

He points out that: "It is usually only in later years that our schooldays are looked back upon as the 'best years of our lives'. We rarely recall those days at school when we fervently wished we hadn't got to attend, and our thoughts were only on the next school holiday.

"Apart from a short time at Kates Hill Infants, (which in those days was known locally as 'the Board School'), my schooldays were spent at the Baylies Charity School.

"It was many years before I discovered that 'Board School' did not imply that Kates Hill formerly took in boarders or had been constructed of timber, but was instituted by a body named the Board of Education prior to being under the jurisdiction of the Local Education Authority.

"It was this later authority which decreed the family had to be rehoused from 'The Huts'. These were properly named municipal dwellings and originally were built for workers at the National Munitions Works during the 1914-18 War. We moved to the Watson's Green area, and it was not possible for my further education to follow the same path as my brothers (I was the youngest of five). You must understand, Madam, that you no longer dwell in the catchment area of

# Memories of school days followed article

by Carl Chinn

Baylies Charity School' was the view of the LEA.

"This view was not shared by my mother who offered the ultimatum 'If you can find me a school with better teachers and a better headmaster than Mr Perry, then me youngest might go there, otherwise he goes where 'is brothers' have gone'.

"Very few people won an argument with my mother (a sentiment with which I'm sure my late father would have agreed) so circa spring 1931 I was having my first lesson in the front playground of the school in Tower Street.

## Numerals

"The first lesson always took place in the playground. 'Learn about the school' said Mr Perry. 'Look at those two stone statues of boys who came here before you and look at that row of letters reading MDCCLXXII. Yes! They are called Roman numerals and they show that this school has been here since the year 1732.

"Now, about those two boys, they are

wearing the school uniform of those days, when the school became known as the Round Cap and Long Coat School, notice that one boy is wearing his cap, the other has his cap in his hand.

"Just over there is the Church of St Edmund's, with its striking clock. Now! Every time those boys hear that clock strike midnight they change the positions of their caps - one puts it on, the other takes his off."

"Having carefully checked the positions of the caps before entering school during the next few days, I suggested to my elder brother, who was in a higher class, that even a headmaster could be guilty of telling fibs. 'Of course he isn't' was the reply. 'The only reason they haven't changed their caps is that they haven't heard the clock strike ever since they've been stuck up there'.

"As was the case of all newcomers, I was duly assigned to Miss Davies' class. How Miss Davies came to be connected to this otherwise all-male establishment was never made clear.

"Some of the boys said it was because she was even older than the school, but she continued to be 25 per cent of the teaching staff until she eventually retired in the mid-30s.

"A male teacher with the appropriate name of Mr Newcombe was appointed to restore the staff to its full establishment of four teachers, Mr Lee and Mr Harvey (who was generally recognised, if perhaps not officially appointed, as deputy head) being the other long-serving incumbents.

"No-one who dared to compile a staffing list of the school would be brave enough to omit the name of the formidable Mr Hampton, the school caretaker who lived in one of the small terraced houses in Tower Street.

"His responsibilities appeared to comprise mainly of maintaining the strict discipline required from all pupils, in addition to dealing with the many problems associated with the ancient coke-fired boiler.

"I left school aged 14 in 1937 when it was still very much the same as when I first joined it. Mr Perry was still headmaster (although headteacher would be a more accurate description, as headmasters were then expected to actually do some teaching).

"I believe he served his first few years as the headmaster of Wolverhampton Street School, but found some time in the early war years to run a Baylies' Old Boys Club."

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## NEWS

## Reaching for the sun



Chloe Bates and mother Kellie look at the giant sunflower. AT 14ft tall, this sunflower towers above its young grower. Three-year-old Chloe Bates has been diligently watering her plant at her grandparents' home in Cradley Heath for three months.

Grandfather Christopher Robinson, 62, has watched in amazement as Chloe's grew taller than his own 9ft effort. Her mother, Kellie Bates, said of Chloe, a pupil at Queen Victoria Nursery: "She has always been very green-fingered. At our house she has helped plant our flower border, spring onions, strawberries and raspberries."

# Revamp for towns given backing by councillors

**MAJOR regeneration plans aimed at boosting two towns by creating more homes and highlighting historic features have been endorsed by councillors.**

It is hoped to lay the foundations to transform Halesowen and Stourbridge over the next 20 years by creating a host of development opportunities.

Priorities include creating new homes in disused shops or office units in both town centres in a bid to bring footfall. They hope the plan will lead to more people living and working in the centres themselves rather than having empty buildings.

But campaigners have called for older landmark buildings around Halesowen to be protected from developments to ensure the town retains important parts of its history.

A community group recently drew up a list of buildings it wants to see protected.

They claim landmarks like the former Halesowen Council buildings in the

town centre, Lutley Mill and the home of Somers Sports and Social Club, based at the Grade II Listed site known as The Grange, should be safeguarded.

It comes after the future of the Halesowen Abbey ruins, in the grounds of Manor Abbey Farm off the A456 Manor Way, appeared settled as a deal to sell the site was expected to be completed shortly.

Other features around the town, such as the River Stour, should be explored to see if they can be made more of a feature to attract people to come and live in Halesowen, the report said.

by Lee Watton

## Thousands of bins to be sent out

THOUSANDS more homes across Dudley will be receiving wheellie bins for household rubbish. A total 40,000 households will have the bins when the £2.5million project by Dudley Council is complete. Homes in Dudley, Halesowen and Brierley Hill are among those to be included.

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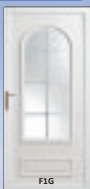
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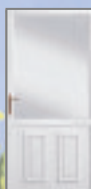
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## NEWS

# Firm bosses lied about nationality of workers

by Lee Watton

**ILLEGAL** workers were taken on by a firm which then lied about their nationality and supplied them to a vegetable farm in The Cotswolds.

Foxwell Ltd, based in Lye, illegally employed Romanian workers and supplied them to the farm, passing them off as Hungarian to avoid legal questions.

The firm has now been banned from supplying workers to a number of industries - including agriculture, horticulture and shellfish - after an investigation revealed 'persistent and systematic' breaches of its licence. The firm, in High Street, has now been stripped of its gangmasters licence following an investigation by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

The agency, which serves agricultural workers and food pickers, was set up in the wake of the Morecambe Bay tragedy in 2004, when 21 cockle pickers were drowned by an incoming tide.

### Investigation

An investigation revealed Foxwell Ltd was found to have breached at least 11 different licensing standards in supplying workers to a vegetable farm in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire. It also showed there were inadequate records of hours worked for calculating worker wages and not allowing a worker paid leave to attend ante-natal appointments.

There was also no record of complaints or any formal procedure in place to handle them, while there was a failure to provide adequate toilet and first-aid facilities for field workers. An inspection report concluded Foxwell Ltd's non-compliance with licensing standards was 'persistent and systematic'.

Notification the licence was to be revoked was sent in March. The firm initially lodged an appeal against the decision but this has now been withdrawn.

## Piece of cake for funds



Halesowen College student Sophie Wilkinson puts the icing on the cake

THE dye is cast for a 'great pink bake-off' as students get set to raise some 'dough' for charity.

Halesowen College hosts the event on October 18 to help raise funds for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. The student bakers have taken on the challenge to raise as much money as they can through a sweepstake as to who will win the bake-off, in each bakery group, along with voting for

the best cakes. Following the bake-off the students will sell their cakes in the college's refectory, as well as collecting donations.

Daniel Tennant, bakery lecturer, said: "The student bakers have had a delicious time trying out recipes. We're hoping to raise lots of dough and we'd encourage everyone in the local community to get involved, it's a piece of cake."

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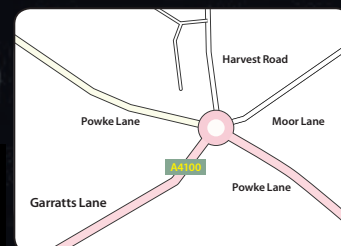


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# Accolades for college students with Jade a cut above the rest

**STUDENTS** were walking tall – with a little help from performers on stilts – as they celebrated their college successes.

More than 70 students at Dudley College were honoured at the annual Celebrating Success Awards, picking up accolades for their hard work and determination over the academic year.

They let their hair down with family, friends and tutors at a glittering ceremony held at the college's Broadway Campus. Tutors were asked to nominate students they thought deserved recognition for their

by Louise Jew

special achievements, and those who, through their sheer determination and effort, have reached their goals.

More than 300 guests were served cocktails and canapés in a marquee and entertained by college music students performing cool, sharp jazz, along with costumed characters dressed as 'stilt walkers' and 'Candy Dandy' hosts.

The characters were created by students from the Diploma Production Arts Level 3, who are studying costume, make-up and technical effects for film, TV and theatre.

Among the winners was 23-year-old wheelchair bound Alex Giles, of Stourbridge, who earned a 'Contribution to College Life' award.

He has gained his BTec Level III extended diploma in sport, FA Level 1 coaching in football and a sports leadership qualification and is now off to the University of Worcester to study sports development and coaching.

**Encouraged**

Alex, who was class representative and joined the 'Dudley Buddy' programme to help other learners, said: "From the day I arrived I knew it was the place for me to

achieve what I wanted to do. They encouraged me to contribute advice on disabilities and sport, to join in other lessons and work with them."

He added: "It's much better than when I was a small child, when disabled kids were asked to keep the score. "I can see there being lots of work that I can do to help."

Among other award winners was Jade Dowd Guest, a hairdressing apprentice from Euphoria Hair in Wordsley.

Jade, aged 18, from Stourbridge, said: "I took the apprentice route because I could get more salon experience. I've enjoyed it from day one."



Jade Dowd-Guest is congratulated by Euphoria colleagues

## Charity boost thanks to trio



Fiona Mellor, right, with her training partners, left, Katie Tomkins and Becca Roberts, at the Great North Run

A PROPERTY consultant has completed the world's biggest half marathon in under two hours, raising more than £550 for Stourbridge-based charity Max Appeal in the process.

Fiona Mellor, an Associate Director at Harris Lamb in Birmingham, trained hard for months to compete in the 33rd Great North Run in Newcastle upon Tyne, calling for sponsorship from friends, family and colleagues to raise funds for Max Appeal.

Max Appeal was founded by parents of children diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome/VCFs/22q11.2 deletion.

Fiona said that the charity, which is run by a team of dedicated volunteers needed all the awareness and support it could get when it came to educating people about the syndrome, and that knowing someone who had lost a son to the illness had cemented her decision to run for them.

Fiona ran with her training partners Katie Tomkins and Becca Roberts, both of whom also ran to raise funds for Max Appeal.

### Grateful

"I do a lot of running, but the Great North Run has been a long-held ambition of mine. As the biggest half-marathon in the world, it has a real status about it, and taking part was fantastic.

"While the weather wasn't the greatest, it wasn't as bad as the forecast had led me to believe, and I was grateful for that. There was a great atmosphere and I loved every minute.

"I completed it in under two hours – 1 hour and 58 minutes to be precise, so I was delighted with my time – I was only 58 minutes behind Mo Farah! I also managed to raise more than £550 for Max Appeal, which will contribute to the charity's work in raising awareness and research into treatment for children diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome."

Fiona is now continuing her training to compete in the Birmingham Half Marathon in a couple of weeks with a team of colleagues from Harris Lamb.

## Workers are wanted for Argos festive rush

ARGOS is recruiting seasonal workers to help out in the run up to Christmas. Initial contracts are for around three months, with the potential for some jobs to become permanent at the end of the season, where vacancies exist.

Among its chain of 735 stores, there are outlets in Dudley; Halesowen, Kidderminster, Merry Hill and West Bromwich. John Walden, managing director of Argos said: "As we approach our busiest shopping period of the year, we need the extra support in our stores from enthusiastic colleagues."

Application forms are now available from any Argos store and at [www.argoscareers.com/christmas](http://www.argoscareers.com/christmas)

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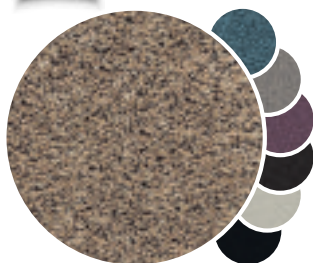
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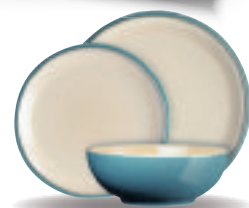
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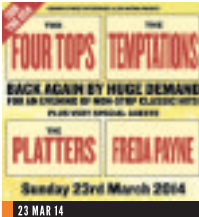
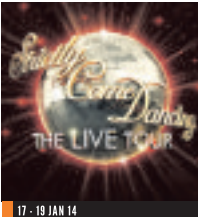
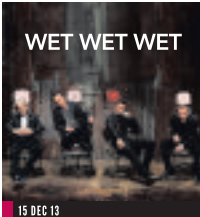
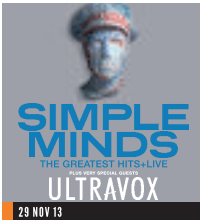
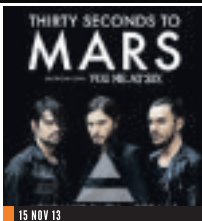
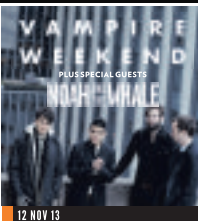
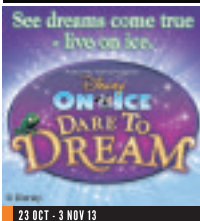
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It's all **HAPPENING...****LG Arena the nia****CLUB NEWS**

# Minute's silence for Speaker who left her mark

**WOLLASTON TWG**

IN THE absence of the chairman, vice chairman, Hazel Needham opened the September meeting.

She welcomed fifty members and one visitor, then read out the list of apologies. A minute's silence was observed for Jean Andrew, a founder member who was very active in all sections including the choir.

A number of members attended her funeral. This was followed by the subscription reports, which included the announcement that Jill Perry had been the victor in the bowls competition, with newcomer Ann Foxall, a very creditable second.

The skittles evening on October 16 at the Stourbridge Institute will cost £8, including a fish and chip supper. Numbers for this event are limited, and a board for names is in circulation. A board for names of members wishing to visit Chatsworth House on November 20 is also available. The cost of this trip is £20.50, with £5 deposit.

We were then entertained by Mrs Adrienne Jennett, who related how she and her fellow volunteers enacted realistic fire and accident incidents, in order to give members of the fire, police and paramedic services experience of dealing with such incidents.

Raffle prizes went to Ann Foxall and Sue Carless.

**Blossoming crowds**

Crowds attend the show held at the Wall Heath venue

**WALL HEATH HORTICULTURE GUILD**

WALL Heath Show was a roaring success on Saturday September 14, held at the village community centre. Jointly organised by the village's Horticultural Guild and Flower Club, the 67th show was opened by Councillor Dave Tyler in front of a packed audience.

Councillor Lynn Boleyn also attended along with Natasha Millward, parliamentary candidate for

Dudley South. The show featured more than 80 competition classes including flowers, fruit and vegetables. Councillor Tyler said: "This was the best annual show yet with a fantastic turn out".

**Delightful supper**

ON SEPTEMBER 5, chairman, Sheila Evans welcomed all present and hoped everyone had enjoyed their August break.

The secretary and treasurer gave their reports from the July meeting. These were approved and signed.

The members then enjoyed a delightful harvest supper which had been pre-

**K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE**

pared by the committee. After the meal, Sheila and Linda auctioned the variety of produce which had been given by the members. The amount raised was £80 which will be given to charity.

**DUDLEY S'TH LUNCH'N CLUB**

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed back 36 members and three visitors following the summer break.

Great changes had taken place at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath during our absence and lunch was served in the newly refurbished white front room.

Speaker Sue Clegg was excellent with her talk entitled "The World of Finger Printing". Sue, a retired police officer, was the first woman fingerprint expert in the country.

Everyone has a different fingerprint, the lines of which go through the flesh and last a lifetime. DNA can be the same in identical twins but not their fingerprints.

She mentioned the notorious Black Panther whose print was left in a small exercise book near the body of Lesley Whittle. He was eventually caught and his prints matched.

Meetings are held the second Friday each month, comprising a three-course lunch, speaker and raffle. In October the Rev Stephen Buckley will talk about his life from Stage to Pulpit.

On December 5 an outing has been arranged to Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton to see their Christmas decorations and the acclaimed Bel Canto Singers will entertain following the December lunch. Visitors are most welcome for more information ring the Secretary on 01902 372984.

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## Lecture to look at village's golden age

LOCAL historian Terry Church is taking a look at the 'golden age of village life' in the 24th Andrew Barnett memorial Lecture on Thursday October 10.

The event, hosted by Sedgley Local History Society, takes place at St Andrews Church in Bilston Street, Sedgley. Mr Church says he is determined to put Wall Heath on the map and will talk about two of the most important decades of the last century in particular, the 1950s and 1960s. He will be capturing those vintage years with stories of school, the world of work and recollections of both local and national headlines.

Among the subjects he will be highlighting are the Cold War, 1953 and the Coronation, Lego, Baggies winning the FA Cup in 1954 and 1968, Wolves' success in the cup in 1960, the assassination of President Kennedy, England's World Cup heroes and the first man on the moon in 1969. Visitors are invited to come along and admission is £1. Annual membership of the society costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

● Andrew Barnett was headteacher of Red Hall School in Lower Gornal and was co-founder of the society. His book Barnett's History of Sedgley is available in local libraries.



Learner Susan Lisseter, Pascale Bigot, who holds the art classes, and Judy Hill, show off their items

## Brushing up on top techniques for art

BUDDING artists keen to learn new techniques to bring their work to life are being urged to sign up to new classes.

The new art courses are taking place at venues across Stourbridge and Halesowen aimed at inspiring people to get creative on canvas.

People will be able to learn a range of techniques from Stourbridge-based professional artist Pascale Bigot who has exhibited and taught adult education classes for 15 years. All levels of skill are welcome at the classes which started last week.

Each Tuesday classes are at The Talbot Hotel, in Stourbridge High Street. The class will take place 10am and 12pm teaching land-

scapes in soft pastels, learning about drawing and composition.

The second class will be from 12.15pm to 2.15pm in the same venue, focusing on polymer clay creations such as jewellery and contemporary bowls.

A class is also taking place each Wednesday at Quinton Methodist Church, Ridgeway Avenue, Quinton, Halesowen, from 10.30am until 1pm, following techniques used by Henri Matisse.

Pascale herself will host a class on Thursdays at Long Lane Library, Long Lane, Halesowen, between 10am and 12pm. These classes will be themed on drawing and shading movement. For more information, call 01384 444939.

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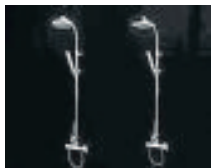
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## Addict, 28, took bikes to pay for his heroin

A 'COWARDLY' drug addict who stole bikes from two young boys to feed his heroin habit has been locked up for 22 months.

Scott Harris struck twice in less than two weeks targeting children aged 11 and 15, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Then the 28-year-old sold the machines for a pitance which was then squandered on drugs, said Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting.

Harris wrestled a £300 cycle from the horrified 11-year-old after starting to talk to the innocent victim who was playing at a BMX jump park in the Black Horse recreation ground off Cradley Road, Netherton, on August 10, the court heard.

Harris was later spotted on the missing machine and followed to another property in the same street where his girlfriend lived, added the prosecutor.

Police were called but the bike had been sold for £10 by the defendant before officers could get to the scene but he took them to the house of the man who had bought it and the stolen cycle was recovered, the court heard.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, conceded: "Regardless of his addiction to drugs, this was a cowardly offence."

Harris from Ladywood Close, Quarry Bank, who had previous convictions for burglary and cycle theft, admitted robbery and theft.

He was jailed by Recorder Martin Butterworth who told him: "You targeted young children thinking that stealing from them was a simple and easy way to feed your drug habit."

"You seemed to believe you could do this with impunity."

## Appeal on theft of bike from station

AN APPEAL has been made after a bike was stolen from Wolverhampton train station.

The bike - a grey, white and black Carrera model - was secured to cycle racks on platform one at the station and belong to a 40-year-old Dudley man.

He left it there for the weekend on Friday August 2 and returned on Monday 5 to find it was missing.

Pc Damien Atterbury said: "We have undertaken extensive enquiries already, including speaking to witnesses, circulating this image on police systems and reviewing CCTV which shows the cycle being taken at about 3pm on Sunday August 4."

Officers said they would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the theft, or who may have seen the bike. Pc Atterbury added: "Sadly, bicycles remain a desirable target for many thieves at train stations."

Call British Transport Police on Freephone 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016.

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## FEATURE

# Things to consider when you choose a nursery



Children love to learn through play

PARENTS know how stressful caring for a child at home can be – even their own child – so, rather than worry about how a nanny might cope with a child during particularly trying moments, many prefer to choose a nursery.

One of the advantages is that nurseries offer a structured environment. All nurseries in England are inspected by Ofsted regularly for registration purposes, nursery staff work closely together (with rooms having more than one carer) and a manager oversees the running of the nursery.

## Sickness

Another plus is that nurseries have clear rules for parents to follow (such as picking up and drop-off times), so you know exactly what is expected of you.

Parents also have the opportunity to meet other parents who may be able to lend support and exchange favours such as babysitting.

If you use registered or approved childcare, such as a nursery setting, you may be able to get help with your

childcare costs from the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

A nursery place can be seen as a stable and reliable form of childcare, because the nursery will still be open regardless of whether one carer is sick or late.

When you opt for a nursery you do not have to take someone else's sickness or holidays into account.

At least 50 per cent of staff in a nursery should be trained in early childhood education so they know what to expect from your child developmentally and are able to nurture their growing skills accordingly.

A nursery curriculum should include a wide variety of activities during the day to teach different skills, such as singing, dancing and listening to stories.

Many parents like the fact that their children spend their days engaged in play activities in a structured setting. Of course, the trained staff will be ensuring that the activities are age-appropriate to the children, helping them to learn as they play.

Finally, toddlers can benefit from the opportunity to mix and socialise with

other children, as it can help them to gain confidence.

Things to watch out for are opening and closing times, try to find one with some flexibility and sort out back-up care for when your child is ill or the nursery is closed.

Children will obviously not get the one-to-one care that is taken for granted with a stay-at-home mum or nanny.

## Ratios

Babies, in particular, need a lot of love and attention but older children are often ready to develop their social and creative skills.

Good nurseries keep the number of children in each group lower than the regulations stipulate, too. You will find it useful to ask about staff to child ratios when you visit nurseries.

Nursery nurses working together can offer support and encouragement to each other when needed, as well as being able to share examples of best practice.

• Information from [www.babycentre.co.uk](http://www.babycentre.co.uk)

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# What's On! Halesowen

## Spooky events coming to get your fangs into

HALLOWEEN is a few weeks away but already some theatre companies are determined to give audiences a fright.

Black Eyed Theatre Company bring a highly theatrical adaptation of the classic Dracula to the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton from Monday to Wednesday (October 7-9), including a matinee on Wednesday for those afraid of going home in the dark.

As Dracula's shadow looms over England, a small group of young men and women, led by Professor Van Helsing, face a struggle with the undead.

### Exciting

Director Eliot Giuralarocca said "It's a fabulously talented cast with a muscular new adaptation of Bram Stoker's novel by John Ginman and original music by Ron McAllister. We have all the ingredients needed to create something exciting, memorable and thought provoking."

Tickets for Dracula are priced at £11 full price, £9 concessions and £5 for the matinee performance. They can be purchased at the box office on 01902 321 321 or at [www.arenatheatre.info](http://www.arenatheatre.info)

Meanwhile, Don't Go Into The Cellar present a reading of M R James's ghost stories in Warnings To The Curious at the Bookmark Blowich Theatre in Elmore Row tomorrow night (Friday) at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 (£6 cons). Call 01922 655900.

# Fashion guru in panto debut but not as 'fairy Gok mother'



The Illusionists, from left Jinger Leigh 'The Enchantress', Philip Escocoff 'The Mentalist', Jeff Hobson 'The Trickster', Dan Sperry 'The Anti-Conjuror', Kevin James 'The Inventor', and Mark Kalin 'The Gentleman'

## Expect the unexpected

A MAGNIFICENT seven magicians join forces for a mind-boggling night of trickery when The Illusionists arrive in Wolverhampton next week as part of their world tour.

Each illusionist is a master of their field, ranging from mind-reading to escapology. They include Dan Sperry - 'The Anti-Conjuror' - who is a master of shocking illusions, Jinger 'The Enchantress' Leigh and Mark 'The Gentleman' Kalin will make the impossible seem real, whilst Philip Escocoff - 'The Mentalist' - will apparently be invading minds in the audience.

Jeff 'The Trickster' Hobson blends magic and comedy while Kevin 'The Inventor' James is a master of deception. Andrew Basso - 'The Escapologist' - is set to impress with his death-defying escapes. Expect to be baffled and, most of all, expect the unexpected.

The Illusionists are at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday, October 8. Tickets range from £32.50 to £40 plus fees. Call 0870 320 7000 or [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

FASHION guru Gok Wan was joined by fellow panto stars Stephanie Beacham, John Partridge and Danielle Hope as Birmingham Hippodrome's revealed details of its big festive show *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

The 39-year-old TV presenter from Leicester will be making his pantomime debut starring as The Man In The Mirror, while John Partridge, best known for playing Christian in *EastEnders* will play the handsome Prince.

Danielle Hope, 21, who won BBC TV's talent show *Over the Rainbow* to star as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* at the London Palladium, will be starring as Snow White.

### Ventriloquist

Screen actress Stephanie Beacham, who appeared in *Dynasty*, will be the focus for boos and hisses as *The Wicked Queen*. West End regular Gary Wilmot is playing a Dame for the first time and ventriloquist Paul Zerdin plays Muddles.

No actual dwarfs will feature in the production with the seven played by 'physical theatre' actors in special costumes.

The show runs at the Hurst Street theatre from December 19 to February 2. Tickets are priced from £12 to £39. Contact the box office on 0844 338 5000.



Birmingham Hippodrome panto stars, from left, John Partridge, Danielle Hope, Gok Wan and Gary Wilmot

## REVIEW

### Too many drums drowned voice

Dan Whitehouse

Crescent Theatre, B'ham  
WOLVERHAMPTON'S singer and songwriter Dan Whitehouse launched his second full album before a sold-out Crescent Theatre where he appeared with a full band including, oddly enough, two drummers.

Not surprisingly, he opened with a track from his new album *Reaching for a State of Mind*, *Come To Me*, which was overpowered by too much percussion.

With both sets of drums banging away, Dan's voice was a little lost and the harmonies of a rather nervy Harriet Harkcom were barely audible. This problem carried into with the next song *The Light*.

### Harsh

Dan finally came through with *Come Back* where, without the intrusion of the harsh percussion, his distinctive voice could be heard clearly.

The Birmingham-based singer was getting into his stride by the time he got to two of his best ballads *They Care* and *Three Bodies*. Dan tries awfully hard to please and include his audience but he should concentrate more on relaxing and letting his talent speak for itself.

In songs such as *When We Were Sleeping* and *My Heart Doesn't Age* you get a real feel for just how clever and intricate his writing is. **DF**

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 5.10.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Gabourey Sidibe

## Precious

BBC2, 11.10pm

Don't expect a bundle of laughs from this Oscar-winning film. Instead, have hankies at the ready, because it's incredibly upsetting in places. It's also a fascinating tale about 16-year-old Claireece Jones. She's illiterate, overweight and pregnant with her second child – whose father is Claireece's own biological dad. He's been abusing his daughter for years. Eventually, Claireece is moved to a new school where a kindly teacher attempts to take her under her wing, and give her the care and attention that could turn her life around.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News. **1.30** Regional News. **1.55** Formula 1: Korean Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.30** Live Gymnastics: World Artistic Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News: Regional News. **5.30** Pointless Celebrities. **6.20** Strictly Come Dancing.

The battle to win the glitterball trophy really begins as the pro-celebrity couples step onto the dance floor for the second time, knowing one pair will be going home tomorrow. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

**8.25** Atlantis. Jason promises to find a missing girl, who has been taken by the worshippers of the god Dionysus – and comes face to face with a woman who will one day become a great enemy.

**9.10** The National Lottery Live. New series. Chris Evans reveals the results of the new Lotto draw and gives players the chance to win £50,000 live on air.

**9.25** Casually. Tess has to confront her own problems when a pregnant woman is involved in a road accident, while Robyn and Jamie witness the effects of a batch of bad pills on the Holby nightlife.

**10.15** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester City v Everton; National Lottery Update.

**11.55** The Football League Show. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.50** Film: Johnny Angel. (1945) **8.05** Film: San Demetrio, London. (1943) **9.40** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.10** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** University Challenge. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** Rachel Allen: Bake! (R) **1.10** EastEnders. **3.00** The House That £100K Built. (R) **4.00** The Wonder of Dogs. (R) **5.00** Flog It!

**6.00** Robert Peston Goes Shopping. The history of the retail trade in Britain since the end of the Second World War, beginning by examining how shopping evolved from a chore into a popular pastime. (R)

**7.00** Count Arthur Strong. A riot forces everyone to take shelter in a back room of the cafe. (R)

**7.30** Orangutans: The Great Ape Escape – Natural World. An orangutan is released back into the wild after eight years in a rescue centre, undertaking a journey by boat, road and finally helicopter with its three-year-old infant. (R)

**8.30** Dad's Army. (R)

**9.00** The 70s. A royal wedding, war in the Middle East, mass consumerism and self-sufficiency. (R)

**10.00** The Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme. Extended edition, with Michael Palin, Helen Skelton and Tim Wonnacott.

**10.40** Mock the Week. (R) **11.10** Film: Precious. (2009) Drama, starring Gabourey Sidibe.

**12.55** Film: Heartbreaker. (2010) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Cookbook. **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** Catchphrase. (R) **1.20** Doc Martin. (R) **2.20** The X Factor. (R) **3.50** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium. (2007) **5.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

**6.00** New You've Been Framed! **6.30** Fool Britannia. New series. A roadie outstays his welcome at the Cornbury Festival.

**7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. New series. Jon Culshaw, Tina Malone, Hilary Jones and Charlotte Jackson try to win thousands of pounds for charity by outwitting a trivia expert.

**8.00** The X Factor. The judges' houses stage, in which Gary, Sharon, Nicole and Louis are joined by celebrity guests in locations around the world as the 24 acts vie for 12 places in the live shows.

**9.50** Through the Keyhole. Simon Gregson and Mollie King join Dave Berry on the panel. Last in the series.

**10.50** ITV News: Weather. **11.05** Film: Mercury Rising. (1998) Thriller, starring Bruce Willis.

**1.05** Jackpot 247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** British Rallycross. **6.40** FIM Superbike World Championship. **7.05** Great Scottish Swim. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.40** Channel 4 News. (R) **7.00** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Coulson takes his crew to Peru to investigate a mysterious object codenamed O-3-4. But when he runs into Commandant Camilla Reyes, sparks soon fly – in more ways than one. (R)

**8.00** Grand Designs. Colin Mackinnon and Marta Bringtons take on an ambitious project to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway, but their plans are hit by bad weather. (R)

**9.00** Film: Friends with Benefits. (2011) Premiere. Two co-workers start sleeping together, but keeping their feelings out of the arrangement proves tricky. Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.

**11.05** Film: Easy A. (2010) Premiere. Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone.

**12.55** Film: The Keep. (1983) **2.40** Hollywood. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** SuperScribers. (R) **5.55** Countdown. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.55** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.30** Sluggterra. **10.55** Inside Hollywood. **11.00** Animal Maternity. (R) **12.00** Film: Columbo: Short Fuse. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Roddy McDowall. **1.30** Film: The Magnificent Seven. (1960) Western, starring Yul Brynner. **4.00** Film: Battle of the Bulge. (1965) Second World War drama, starring Robert Shaw, Henry Fonda, Dana Andrews and Charles Bronson.

**6.45** Film: Blood Alley. (1955) A merchant sailor rescues Chinese villagers from communist oppression and transports them by ferry to safety in Hong Kong. Action adventure, starring John Wayne and Lauren Bacall.

**8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Lethal Weapon 3. (1992) Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weapons to criminal gang bosses. Action thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

**11.25** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Langston and the team respond to a fatal shooting at an electronics store, only to discover the victim is a rapist being sought by Nick and Catherine in a separate investigation. (R)

**12.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. A cheetah gets a health check. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. The team is under intense pressure to sell tickets. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert. **8.00** Top Gear. **9.05** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **11.25** Family Guy. **BBC Four** **7.00** Africa. **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Africa. **9.00** The Young Montalano. **10.40** Classic Albums. **11.30** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up.

**ITV2** **3.30** You've Been Framed! **5.35** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.20** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.50** The Xtra Factor. **10.50** Celebrity Juice. **11.35** The Maguluf Weekender.

**ITV3** **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple. **5.00** A Touch of Frost. **6.35** Rosemary & Thyme. **8.00** Foyle's War. **10.00** Bomb Girls. **11.00** Wire in the Blood.

**ITV4** **3.20** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. **4.50** Film: Billion Dollar Brain (1967) **7.00** I Want That Car. **8.00** Hornblower. **10.10** Film: The Boat That Rocked (2009).

**E4** **3.00** Film: The Spy Next Door (2010) **5.00** How I Met Your Mother. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.00** How I Met Your Mother. **7.30** Suburgatory. **8.00** New Girl. **9.00** Film: Run Fat Boy Run (2007) **11.00** Film: Slither (2006).

**Film4** **2.45** The Quiller Memorandum (1966) **4.50** Freaky Friday (1976) **6.50** New British Cinema 7.00 Drillbit Taylor (2008) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson, Leslie Mann, Nate Hartley and Troy Gentile. **9.00** Predator (1987) Sci-Fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.05** Predator 2 (1990).

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 6.10.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Christopher Villiers

## By Any Means

## BBC1, 9pm

The latest episode centres on the death of 18 people who perish in a building targeted as an arson attack. Could ruthless property developer Philip Granger be responsible, and if so can he be brought to justice because he is holed up in the Colombian Embassy, where the ambassador is an old school friend? That's where Jack and his team step in. They set up a surveillance operation to monitor his activity, while Charlie infiltrates the embassy and works on seducing the ambassador's daughter. Warren Brown, Shelley Conn and Christopher Villiers star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Formula 1: Korean Grand Prix Highlights. **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Great British Year. (R) **5.50** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **6.20** Countryfile. Julia Bradbury visits the food festival in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, and Matt Baker discovers how Blaenavon's old spoil heaps have attracted a surprising number of creatures. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.20** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The first couple are eliminated, and Matt Goss performs.

**8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Discoveries at Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire include an English literature prize presented to DH Lawrence and the bugle used to sound the real Charge of the Light Brigade. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

**9.00** By Any Means. Charlie goes undercover at an embassy.

**10.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

**10.25** Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Norwich City v Chelsea.

**11.45** The Sky at Night. The team goes camping at the Brecon Beacons AstroCamp star party.

**12.05** Weatherview. **12.10** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **7.05** Film: Dance, Girl, Dance. (1940) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **10.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **10.30** Live Athletics. **1.30** Live Gymnastics: World Artistic Championships. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs.

**6.00** Great British Railway Journeys. (R)

**6.30** The Great British Bake Off. The remaining six contestants face three tasks involving pastry, making signature suet puddings, choux buns filled with creme patissiere, and three different types of puff pastries. (R)

**7.30** The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek. The gulls take revenge on a motorist.

**8.00** The Crane Gang. A wind turbine installation is brought to a halt by high winds. Last in the series.

**9.00** The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Emperors. New series. Raghb Omar traces the history of the Islamic empire.

**10.00** The Wrong Mans. Sam and Phil try to rescue Mr Stevens' wife. (R)

**10.30** QI XL. Extended edition. With Jeremy Clarkson, Jimmy Carr and Bill Bailey.

**11.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Russell Howard hosts, with guests Conor Maynard and Lethal Bizzle. (R)

**11.45** Film: The Year of Living Dangerously. (1982) Political thriller, starring Mel Gibson.

**1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.15** Bottom Knockers. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Big Time Rush. **9.25** Ad Lib. (R) **10.20** Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore. (1976) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** Inside the National Trust. **1.25** The X Factor. (R) **3.15** Foot Britannia. (R) **3.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.45** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.45** Regional Programme. Weather. **5.55** ITV News: Weather.

**6.10** Surprise Surprise. An inspirational girl meets the Saturdays. Aled Jones helps a choirmaster fulfil an ambition and two siblings are introduced to their brother after years of searching.

**7.10** The X Factor. The judges have to tell the remaining acts in their categories who has made it into the final 12, and who is heading home disappointed.

**9.00** Downton Abbey. An extravagant party at the Saturdays. Aled Jones helps a choirmaster fulfil an ambition and two siblings are introduced to their brother after years of searching.

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**11.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Russell Howard hosts, with guests Conor Maynard and Lethal Bizzle. (R)

**11.45** Film: The Year of Living Dangerously. (1982) Political thriller, starring Mel Gibson.

**1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.35** The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** American Football: Hard Knocks. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Channel 4 Racing. **3.45** Film: Turner & Hooch. (1989) **5.40** My Big Fat Gypsy Christening. (R) **6.40** Channel 4 News.

**7.00** World's Weirdest Weather. Alex Beresford reveals the power of air and its role in the creation of strange weather events, from tornadoes spinning on the spot to dust storms, double rainbows and mirages. (R)

**8.00** Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. Kevin plans to build an observation tower three times higher than a double-decker bus, and turns to an ingenious mechanism to get around planning restrictions.

**9.00** Homeland. New series. With Brody still at large almost three months after the terrorist attack on Langley, Saul plots a counterstrike aimed at those connected to the devastating incident.

**10.05** Was It Something I Said? New series. Panel show, hosted by David Mitchell.

**10.40** Gogglebox. Viewers' thoughts on the week's TV. (R)

**11.30** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. The comedian is joined by David Mitchell, James McAvoy and Strictly Come Dancing co-host Tess Daly with some of this year's contestants. Iggy Azalea provides the music. (R)

**12.30** Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **1.15** American Football Live. **4.45** Film: Superbike World Championship. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.50** Mio Mao. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Sluggert. **11.20** Inside Hollywood. **11.25** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.25** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.25** Cowboy Builders. (R) **2.30** Film: Innerspace. (1987) **4.50** Film: The Time Machine. (2002)

**6.30** Film: Superman II. (1980) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve and Terence Stamp. Edited for language.

**8.55** 5 News Weekend.

**9.00** Film: Killers. (2010) Premiere. Action comedy, starring Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl.

**11.05** Film: Date Movie. (2006) Spoof romantic comedy, with Alyson Hannigan and Adam Campbell.

**12.30** Traveller Feuds. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.20** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Some Girls **11.15** American Dad!

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Miss Marple **7.50** West Coast Offers **8.00** Fabric of Britain: The Wonder of Embroidery **9.00** Mark Lawson Talks to Bob Geldof **10.00** Sight and Sound in Concert: Boomtown Rats **11.00** Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams

**ITV2**  
**3.50** The X Factor **5.50** The Xtra Factor **6.50** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Film: The Wedding Singer (1998)

**ITV3**  
**3.35** George and Mildred **4.10** Film: The Best of Benny Hill (1974) **5.55** Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Lewis **9.00** An Audience with Lionel Richie **10.00** Film: The Graduate (1967)

**ITV4**  
**3.45** Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **7.00** BRD Formula 4 Championship Highlights **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Parole Officer (2001) **11.00** Film: South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999)

**E4**  
**4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.50** How I Met Your Mother **7.15** Rules of Engagement **7.45** Film: Bandstand (2009) **10.00** New Nude Tube **11.00** Rules of Engagement **11.30** Don't Trust the B\*\*\*\* in Apartment 23

**Film4**  
**2.55** High Noon (1952) **4.35** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **6.15** Independence Day (1996) **9.00** The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **11.35** The Joneses (2009)

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## Film Choices

## MONDAY

## Reservoir Dogs, Channel 5, 10.55pm

Criminals are employed by a crime boss to carry out a diamond robbery that goes disastrously wrong. In the bloody aftermath of the heist, they try to establish what happened and how the police were aware of their plans all along – leading to the hardening suspicion that one of them betrayed the gang. Quentin Tarantino's thriller, starring Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth, Michael Madsen, Chris Penn and Steve Buscemi. (1992)

## TUESDAY

## The Boy She Met Online, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A teenage girl falls madly in love with someone claiming to be a college student, whom she meets on a social networking website, and keeps her internet romance a secret from her mother. However, she is unaware that everything he has told her about himself is a lie. Drama, starring Tracy Spiridakos and Alexandra Paul. (2010)



Reservoir Dogs, Monday, Channel 5, 10.55pm

## Hearts in Atlantis, ITV, 10.35pm

A miserable youngster, neglected by his vain mother and bullied by local youths, befriends an elderly man who is lodging in their house. The pair share many recollections and secrets, and it is not long before the boy discovers his new friend possesses otherworldly gifts. But shadowy figures are determined to use his powers for their own devious ends. Drama adapted from Stephen King's novel, starring Anthony Hopkins. (2001)

## WEDNESDAY

## Trust the Man, BBC1, 11.45pm

Two Manhattan-based couples hit a rocky patch in their relationships. Husband and wife Tom and Rebecca look to therapy and counselling to try to save their ailing marriage, while Tobey and Elaine decide to go their separate ways after seven difficult years together. Comedy drama, with David Duchovny. (2005)

## THURSDAY

## Gone, ITV, 10.40pm

A British couple travelling around Australia befriend an American backpacker and let him accompany them on their trip across the Outback. However, as they venture farther from civilisation, their new travelling companion shows a dark side to his nature. Thriller, starring Shaun Evans, Scott Mechlowicz and Amelia Warner. (2007)

## Friday

## Piranha, Channel 5, 11pm

Teenagers descend on a seaside resort, only to end up walking into a massacre when an underwater tremor unleashes a horde of carnivorous prehistoric fish that go in search of human prey. The local sheriff battles to destroy the creatures as bloodletting ensues. Horror remake, starring Elisabeth Shue. (2010)

## Pick of the Week

## Paying a fitting tribute to the nation's heroes

If you're at that sort of age where you get teary-eyed watching Roy and Hayley on Coronation Street, or even big screen blockbusters like White House Down, then we'll warn you now: get a big box of handkerchiefs as Daily Mirror's Pride of Britain Awards 2013 will leave you roaring.

There are many uplifting stories of courage and of going the extra mile here, which, in a world where everyone seems to be looking out for themselves, restores your faith in humanity. Grosvenor House in London's Park Lane will be the setting for this star-studded event, with the likes of Prince William, Prince Charles and Prime Minister David Cameron joining more than 100 celebrities in honouring Britain's unsung heroes. Hosted by Carol Vorderman, the 15th annual do is packed with stories of selfless courage and achievement against the odds.

Winners include a 10-year-old boy who saved his dad's life when he collapsed with a heart attack. If that's not enough to make you fill up you undoubtedly will when you hear the

story of the eight-year-old meningitis victim who, had his four limbs amputated.

What's remarkable is that he then went on an unbelievable fund-raising mission for the hospital that treated him. By this point in the proceedings, we fully expect a river of mascara to be running down your cheeks, but there are even more stories like that to come.

Such as the one of the lollipop lady who almost died when she jumped in front of an out-of-control car to save a group of schoolchildren. Naturally, thoughts also turn to Britain's armed forces in Afghanistan, and, in particular, to a brave rifleman who ran across open ground under sniper fire to rescue an injured comrade – despite having been shot himself.

Marking the 150th anniversary of The FA, Prince William will meet an extraordinary woman who turned around her community through the power of the beautiful game.

Those who lost relatives in the Hillsborough tragedy, and fought for almost a quarter of a century to

uncover the truth about what happened on that fateful day, will also be honoured. Carol Vorderman says: "It's always such a great pleasure hosting Pride of Britain. For me, it is the only awards show on TV that really matters because the winners are real people who could not be more deserving."

The judging committee selecting this year's winners are ITN news anchorman Mark Austin, Campaigner and Pride of Britain winner 2012 Katie Piper, Olympic heptathlon gold medalist Denise Lewis CBE, former England footballer Michael Owen, President of the Royal College of Nursing Andrea Spyropoulos, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police Chris Sims, Daybreak presenter Aled Jones MBE and Paralympic hero David Weir CBE.

Carol adds: "Over the past 14 years, there have been so many heart-warming, inspiring stories of people who have contributed so much to this country. It's a chance for us to celebrate Britain at its best and I'm not surprised it has become the biggest national event of its kind."



Carol Vorderman hosts The Pride of Britain Awards 2013, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

## Best of the Rest

## MONDAY

## EastEnders

## BBC1, 8pm

Look up 'cheeky chappy' in the dictionary, and chances are you'll see Alfie Moon's face gurning back at you. But even the life and soul of every Vic theme night has its limits, and discovering that Roxy has been seeing her sister behind his back has just about pushed him over it. To make matters worse, Michael is winding him up about his fiancée's betrayal, and when Alfie confronts Ronnie, she says that while she is sorry about snatching his son and everything, she is Roxy's family and he'll just have to get used to it.

## Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food

## BBC2, 8.30pm

There was once a time when the sole purpose of a pub was to serve its customers the beverage of their choice. But now a hostelry that doesn't serve meals is very unusual. When it comes to pub food, few know more than Tom Kerridge. Last year, his gastropub, The Hand & Flowers in Buckinghamshire, became the first pub to be awarded two Michelin stars. Now he's passing on his expertise to viewers via this series. This week he's demonstrating meals that can be served to groups of friends.

## TUESDAY

## The Dog Rescuers

## Channel 5, 7.30pm

Dogs are supposedly man's best friend – so why do so many of them end up abused and badly treated? That may for ever remain a mystery, but

programmes such as Animal Hospital, Paul O'Grady's For the Love of Dogs and now Dog Rescuers have highlighted the terrible conditions some canines have been forced to endure. Thankfully, as we're about to see in this new, ten-part series, some tales do have a happy ending. The programme begins in Manchester, where the RSPCA is carrying out a joint operation with the police and trading standards officers at a puppy farm where they suspect dogs are being bred illegally.

## WEDNESDAY

## Dan Snow's History of Congo

## BBC2, 9pm

Although he made his TV debut co-presenting a programme about El Alamein with his newsreader dad Peter, Dan Snow has gone on to be a successful presenter in his own right – and his shows have become increasingly ambitious. This documentary might be his most challenging yet as it sees Dan behind the British battlefields and trains he has reported on in the past and heading to the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is one of the wildest, most colourful and anarchic places on the planet. In theory, it should also have been one of the richest due to its natural resources, yet instead the country has been blighted by poverty – and the historian wants to find out why.

## Father Figure

## BBC1, 10.35pm

With its cosy family set-up and liberal amounts of slapstick, Father Figure seems to have been tailor-made for prime-time Friday viewing – so it's strange to find it tucked away on a late-night Wednesday. However, Miranda and this sitcom's most obvious recent antecedent Mrs Brown's Boys also overcame odd scheduling and mixed early reviews to become big hits, so there's hope for Jason Byrne's show yet. This fourth episode also has the added benefit of a guest role for Peter Serafinowicz, who stars as Elaine's ex-boyfriend Karl. He's got charm, an exciting job, an impressive physique and worst of all, a magnificent chin – no wonder Tom, who is developing a complex about his own 'turkey neck' isn't looking forward to his visit.

## THURSDAY

## Breathless

## ITV, 9pm

It's 16 years since Jack Davenport and Natasha Little appeared together in the second series of This Life. They reunite for this new drama set in 1961 as glamorous married couple Otto and Elizabeth Powell. Otto is a charismatic surgeon working in a gynaecology unit. He's convinced he can

make positive changes to women's lives, even if it means breaking the abortion laws. But despite appearing to be perfect, Otto and Elizabeth are hiding a dark secret that could wreck their lives.

## Truckers

## BBC1, 9pm

Channel 5 has spent years trying to convince us that the lives of lorry drivers are inherently dramatic – just look at all those series of Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. But now the BBC is getting in on the act too, with an actual drama series centring on a haulage firm in Nottinghamshire. Stephen Tompkinson heads the impressive cast as Malachi, who got divorced 18 months ago, but is still living in the family home with his ex-wife. He's not moved on emotionally either, and is still hopeful his relationship can be fixed – until he discovers his wife is engaged to another man. Malachi is also facing upheaval at work as the new boss Martin (John Dalglish) unveils a revised roster.

## FRIDAY

## World Cup Qualifying Live

## ITV, 7.30pm

The quest to reach next year's World Cup finals in Brazil moves a step closer to concluding this evening, as England welcome Montenegro to Wembley Stadium in their penultimate Group H encounter. With the visit of Poland to come on Tuesday night, Roy Hodgson can at least draw comfort from the knowledge that two wins would guarantee qualification no matter how their rivals perform, however they have so far failed to defeat any of their direct rivals in the group.

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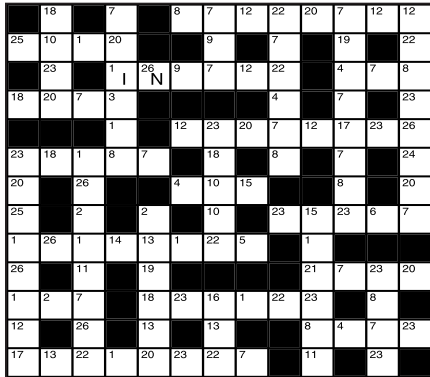
## Puzzler

## Brain Gym

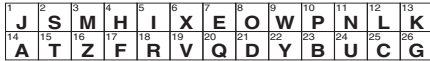
No.241

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

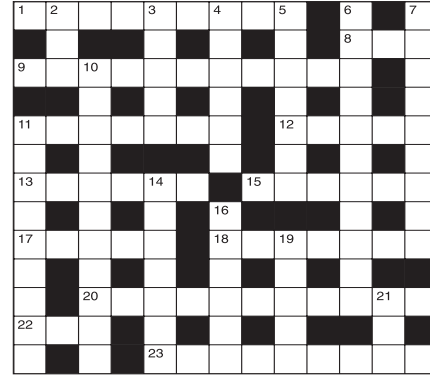
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. It shows the pressure we're under (9)
8. Make second-hand (3)
9. What a motoring school is expected to do for the fireman's boss (5,6)
11. Made run, perhaps, being defenceless (7)
12. Work to rule? (5)
13. Threaten to give me the cane, somehow (6)
15. Article in the van (6)
17. Speeds regulated by local authorities (5)
18. Those who inherit are bound to (7)
20. Not a reasonable way to act (11)
22. Wood used in model-making (3)
23. He should be a good mixer (9)

## Down

2. A number smaller than two! (3)
3. A note for the chemist (5)
4. Diatribe I get in traffic (6)
5. A dream I think a lot about (7)
6. A case of galloping consumption? (7,4)
7. Observing a communist and becoming angry (6,3)
10. In such a race, do you have a minute adversary? (7,4)
11. Not a member of a union? (9)
14. The actors went in front and changed positions on board (7)
16. A wrong guess about customs (6)
19. A number yearn to find the hiding place (5)
21. Not the true position (3)



## Quick Clues:

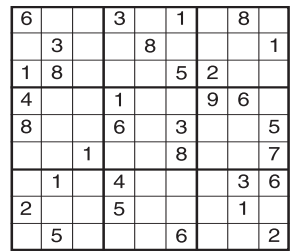
## Across

1. Fleeting (9)
8. Be in debt to (3)
9. Demolition (11)
11. Act of contrition (7)
12. Perfect (5)
13. Stirred up (6)
15. Assert (6)
17. Rub out (5)
18. Brave (7)
20. Lying between (11)
22. Deed (3)
23. Release (9)

## Down

2. Regret (3)
3. Temptress (5)
4. Shun (6)
5. Trifling (7)
6. Ally (11)
7. Remember (9)
10. Oddity (11)
11. Eternal (9)
14. Built (7)
16. Turns aside (6)
19. Get to know (5)
21. Constantly find fault with (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

7	6	3	1	8	4	1	2	9
2	9	5	1	7	4	3	6	8
1	8	4	6	9	3	7	2	5
4	1	9	2	8	5	6	3	7
5	3	7	4	1	6	2	8	9
8	2	6	9	3	7	5	1	4
9	7	1	8	6	2	4	5	3
6	5	8	3	4	9	1	7	2
3	4	2	7	5	1	8	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Lariat; 8 Select; 10 Opinion; 11 Paste; 12 Emit; 13 Fence; 17 Quits; 18 Peri; 22 Dwarf; 23 Ill-fame; 24 Euclid; 25 Capers. Down: 1 Almoner; 2 Prairie; 3 Ratio; 4 Respect; 5 Tense; 6 Other; 9 Uncertain; 14 Fun-fair; 15 Relaxed; 16 License; 19 Idded; 20 Hatch; 21 Float. QUICK - Across: 7 Expert; 8 Zenith; 10 Emotion; 11 Lucid; 12 Sane; 13 Bogus; 17 Greed; 18 Pair; 22 Thing; 23 Crucial; 24 Result; 25 Reverse. Down: 1 Reverse; 2 Appear; 3 Drain; 4 Zealous; 5 Pinch; 6 Shade; 9 Innocence; 14 Wriggle; 15 Mariner; 16 Trolley; 19 Story; 20 First; 21 Queer.



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# Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO  
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

## Rental opportunities in this sought-after area

LEADING housebuilder Taylor Wimpey is inviting people looking for an enticing investment opportunity to visit its sought-after Woodall Grange development in Dudley.

There has never been a better time to explore the benefits of the rental property market, with low interest rates and rising rents making an investment in bricks and mortar a very attractive option.

In fact, recent figures showed mortgage borrowing to fund buy-to-lets has hit a five-year high with investors looking to cash in on the flourishing property market.

Potential gross rental yields of more than five per cent means Taylor Wimpey's desirable portfolio of new-build apartments at Woodall Grange is in demand with clued-up landlords.

For example, a two-bedroom apartment at the development, priced £99,995, can command around £450 a month in rent, delivering a 5.4 per cent yield on the investment.

Anne Wallace, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "Buying a property to rent out can be a savvy investment opportunity and purchasing one of our new-build apartments makes sense for clued-up landlords because the upkeep and maintenance costs are likely to be lower than with a second-hand property."

"We are confident the contemporary apartments at Woodall Grange will appeal to a wide range of tenants in the West Midlands and would urge prospective investors to come and find out more about this fantastic opportunity."

The two-bedroom 'Canterbury'



Taylor Wimpey's Woodall Grange development has affordable apartments

apartment, priced from £99,995, features an open-plan kitchen/living/dining room, an ensuite master bedroom, a further bedroom and a main bathroom, while there's allocated parking outside.

All apartments also come complete with a dishwasher, washer/dryer, fridge freezer, a hob, single oven and flooring, making them an ideal rental purchase.

Woodall Grange enjoys a well-connected location off Constitution Hill, just a short stroll from the extensive selection of shops, restaurants and entertainment venues in Dudley town centre.

Meanwhile, big name brands, niche products, everyday items and special gifts can be snapped up at any one of more than 230 stores at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, three miles away, where food from across the globe can be enjoyed at more than 50 places to

eat. Families will also appreciate the good choice of nursery, primary and secondary schools located near the new homes.

The development is perfectly placed for those who work in Dudley town centre while there's also quick access to the A4123 into Birmingham or Wolverhampton and junction 2 of the M5 motorway is just a few miles away, providing links to the M42 and M6 for the Midlands and beyond.

Dudley Port railway station is just over two miles from home, offering services into Birmingham New Street in approximately 15 minutes.

To find out more about the investment opportunities available at Woodall Grange, property-seekers can visit the sales centre, located off Martin Hill Street, Dudley, DY2 8RT, and open Thursday to Monday from 10am to 5pm. The sales executive can also be contacted on 01384 880867.

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### CASTLE ROAD EAST, OLDBURY



4 double bed edwardian style home  
Close to warley park & golf course  
Refitted 16ft breakfast kitchen & d/s WC  
Lounge, dining room & study  
Refitted bathroom & e/suite shower room  
Rear dble garage/workshop EPC rating: F  
£315,000 Ref: D845

### GOODWYN AVENUE, OLDBURY



Extended 5 bed home in cul-de-sac  
Large lawn rear garden & conservatory  
21ft lounge, 14ft dining room & kitchen  
Refitted bathroom & d/s shower room  
Garage & driveway to front  
UPVC DG & GCH - EPC rating: D  
£235,000 Ref: D1358

### OAK ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 3 bed link detached home  
Lounge diner & refitted breakfast kitchen  
Conservatory & side utility/store  
Driveway & enclosed southerly rear garden  
Majority upvc dg & gas central heating  
EPC rating: F  
£205,000 Ref: D902

### HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY



Large traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached  
Garage & blockpaved driveway  
benefitting from no upward chain  
Two 16ft receptions, kitchen & side utility  
Refitted bathroom & lawn garden to rear  
UPVC DG & GCH - EPC rating:  
£174,950 Ref: D1359

### HIGH STREET, QUINTON



Character filled 2 double bedroom home  
Private lawn garden to rear  
2 reception rooms & refitted kitchen  
Refitted downstairs shower/bathroom  
Gas central heating & double glazing  
EPC rating: E  
£159,950 Ref: D1356

### LOXLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD



Charming 3 bed terraced home - no chain  
2 reception rooms and kitchen  
Refitted downstairs bathroom - white suite  
Established gardens to both front & rear  
Double glazing & gas central heating fitted  
EPC rating: D  
£152,500 Ref: D1357

### GOODE CLOSE, OLDBURY



First floor maisonette in cul-de-sac location  
15ft lounge with fireplace  
11ft kitchen to front  
Double bedroom & bathroom - white suite  
UPVC double glazing fitted  
Allocated parking to rear. EPC rating: D  
£69,950 Ref: D1360

### HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY



Much improved traditional styled terrace  
Refitted kitchen Lounge & sep. dining  
2 x double bedroom & luxury bathroom  
UPVC DG & GCH (combi boiler).  
Delightful enclosed rear garden with patio  
Well positioned for amenities. EPC rating D  
£117,500 Ref: D1319

### APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY



Substantially extended 3 bedroom home  
No upward chain - vacant possession  
19ft lounge, dining room & 15ft kitchen  
Refitted bathroom with shower & bath  
Driveway to front & feature garden to rear  
UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: D  
£169,950 Ref: D1317

### ABBAY ROAD, SMETHWICK



3 bed semi with garage & parking  
Close to warley park & oldbury border  
Two reception rooms, kitchen  
Front & enclosed rear garden  
Benefitting DBG & gas central heating  
No upward chain. EPC rating: E  
£159,950 Ref: D1296

### CLAY LANE, OLDBURY



Modern & well presented 2 bed home  
Driveway to front giving off road parking  
Lounge, fitted kitchen & downstairs wc  
Lawn rear garden with patio  
Gas central heating & majority upvc dg  
EPC rating: C  
£115,000 Ref: D1332

### STEWARTS ROAD, HALESOWEN



Large 2 double bed home with garage  
14ft lounge & 17ft kitchen diner  
Lawn gardens to front & rear  
Gas central heating & majority upvc DG  
No upward chain  
EPC rating: C  
£110,995 Ref: D1341

Residential Sales & Lettings



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**Halesowen Hunnington****Bromsgrove Road**

- \* A spacious detached family house
- \* Five bedrooms \* Bathroom & ensuite
- \* Superb sized living room \* Conservatory
- \* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- \* Utility \* Double garage
- \* Secluded landscaped garden
- \* PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED
- \* EPC = F

**Offers in the region of £455,000****Cradley Heath****Haden Park Road**

- \* Traditional Detached House
- \* Three Good Bedrooms
- \* Two Reception Rooms
- \* Good Sized Side Garage
- \* Delightful Rear Garden
- \* Bathroom and Shower Room
- \* EPC=Ibc

**Offers in the region of £255,000****Halesowen****Garland Crescent**

- \* A Spacious Well Presented Detached House
- \* Lounge
- \* Dining Room
- \* Utility
- \* Three Bedrooms
- \* Tandem Garage
- \* EPC = E

**Offers in the region of £249,950****Oldbury****Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road**

- \* Link detached bungalow
- \* Two parking spaces
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* L Shaped lounge/dining area
- \* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances
- \* Luxury bathroom with shower over bath
- \* Gas boiler heating radiators \* EPC = C

**Fixed Price £185,000****Halesowen****Compton Road**

- \* Semi detached House
- \* Extended Kitchen and Living Room
- \* Downstairs wc
- \* Three Bedrooms
- \* Small Garage
- \* EPC =Ibc

**Offers in the region of £179,950****Quinton****Hagley Road West**

- \* Semi Detached House
- \* Living room forming lounge and dining area
- \* Enlarged kitchen and utility room
- \* Three bedrooms \* Bathroom with both bath and shower \* Conservatory
- \* Good Sized Rear Garden
- \* Double glazing to majority of windows
- \* EPC = F

**Offers in the region of £169,950****Halesowen****Kent Road**

- \* End Terraced House
- \* Downstairs wc
- \* Bedroom One with En-suite Shower Room
- \* Two Further Bedrooms
- \* Bathroom
- \* Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- \* EPC = C

**Offers in the region of £142,500****Rowley Regis****Crendon Road**

- \* Semi Detached
- \* Three Bedrooms
- \* Through Lounge
- \* Good Sized Garage
- \* No Upward Chain
- \* EPC = D

**Offers in the region of £139,950****Halesowen Hurst Green****Fairfield Road**

- \* Mid Terrace House
- \* Kitchen/Breakfast room
- \* Through Room forming Lounge and Dining Room
- \* Three Bedrooms
- \* Bathroom
- \* EPC = D

**Offers in the region of £135,000****Oldbury****Leahouse Road**

- \* Semi Detached
- \* Three Bedrooms
- \* Through Lounge
- \* Good Sized Garden
- \* Rear Garage
- \* EPC = C

**Offers in the region of £129,950****Rowley Regis****Cakemore Road**

- \* Semi Detached
- \* Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- \* Two Reception Rooms
- \* Off Road Parking
- \* Rear Garage With Electric Door
- \* EPC = C

**Offers in the region of £129,950****Quinton****Quinton Road West**

- \* Semi detached House
- \* In Need of General Modernisation and Improvement
- \* Two Reception Rooms
- \* Two Bedrooms
- \* Separate Bathroom & wc
- \* EPC = C

**Offers in the region of £99,950****Halesowen****Flat 19 Clent House**

- \* Top floor two bedroom flat \* EPC = D
- \* Living room with stunning views
- \* Kitchen with cooker, extract, F/F & washer
- \* Neutral decor & carpets
- \* DG windows & electric heating \* Garage

**Monthly rent of £450+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Halesowen****86 Bloomfield Street North**

- \* Refurbished 2 bedroom house
- \* Stylish fittings and quality finish
- \* Neutrally decorated
- \* Kitchen with essential appliances
- \* Bathroom with shower
- \* Gas central heating system \* EPC = C

**Monthly rent of £550+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Cradley Heath****Flat 2 Beechwood Court**

- \* Self contained Bedstt style flat
- \* Large bedsitting room \* Fitted kitchen
- \* Bathroom with shower over bath
- \* Night storage heating \* EPC=E
- \* Car parking within communal grounds

**Monthly rent of £295+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Birmingham Edgbaston****Flat C 112 Portland Road**

- \* Spacious first floor flat
- \* One double bedroom
- \* Kitchen with appliances
- \* Plenty of storage
- \* Double glazing & electric heating
- \* EPC = G

**Monthly rent of £395+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Dudley Lower Gornal****28 Gideons Close**

- \* Semi detached house
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* Kitchen with some appliances
- \* Alarm \* GCH & DGW
- \* Garage & off road car space
- \* Available Now! EPC=C

**Monthly rent of £535+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Smethwick****64 Bishopton Road**

- \* modernised terraced house
- \* 3 bedrooms
- \* UPVC double glazing to most windows
- \* gas boiler radiator heating
- \* large fitted kitchen
- \* garage at rear \* EPC = D

**Monthly rent of £675+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Halesowen****13 Olive Hill Road**

- \* Extended semi-detached house
- \* Three bedrooms \* Breakfast/kitchen with double oven, hob & hood
- \* Two reception rooms \* Shower room
- \* Bathroom with shower \* Garage and garden
- \* EPC = C\* Available now!

**Monthly rent of £750+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Halesowen****102 Olive Lane**

- \* Modern semi-detached house
- \* 2 Bedrooms
- \* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob, hood
- \* White bathroom suite with shower
- \* Carpets/floor coverings
- \* Gas boiler/radiator heating system \* EPC=D

**Monthly rent of £535+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Halesowen****39a Beecher Street**

- \* Superb 3 bed starter home
- \* Ideal for professional couple or new family
- \* EPC = D \* Kitchen with oven, hood & hob.
- \* Living room with gas fire
- \* Off road car space & GCH & DGW
- \* Beautiful enclosed rear garden

**Monthly rent of £570+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Stourbridge Hagley****38 Chestnut Drive**

- \* Self contained flat
- \* One bedroom
- \* Open plan living room
- \* Kitchen with oven, hob & hood
- \* Gas boiler radiator heating system
- \* Garage below flat \* EPC = C

**Monthly rent of £525+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Brierley Hill Quarry Bank****16 East Street**

- \* modern semi
- \* 2 bedrooms
- \* fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- \* gas boiler/radiator heating system
- \* great for access to Merry Hill shopping Centre
- \* EPC=D

**Monthly rent of £565+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Halesowen****1 Elm Drive**

- \* Detached house
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Lounge & dining room
- \* Re-fitted kitchen with appliances
- \* Luxury house bathroom
- \* Garage \* EPC=E

**Monthly rent of £795+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Halesowen****16A Banners Street**

- \* Modernised end terraced house
- \* 2 bedrooms & 2 reception rooms
- \* Kitchen with oven, hob & hood
- \* Bathroom with shower over bath
- \* UPVC double glazing & GCH
- \* Available now! \* EPC = E

**Monthly rent of £495+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Smethwick****20A Abbey Road**

- \* Two bed flat
- \* Various appliances
- \* Large living room
- \* Parking space
- \* EPC = F

**Monthly rent of £395+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Cradley Heath Old Hill****Flat Above 158 Halesowen Road**

- \* First floor flat.
- \* One bedroom.
- \* Double glazed windows.
- \* Electric heating.
- \* New carpets/ floor coverings. EPC=E

**Monthly rent of £350+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.**Oldbury****Suite 1 Mercer House 780A Hagley Road West**

- \* EPC = G
- \* Well presented
- \* First Floor Single office
- \* Air conditioning/heater
- \* Communal Kitchen and toilets
- \* Set service charge

**Annual rent of £1,900****Halesowen****1 Cross Street**

- \* EPC = D
- \* Prominent position.
- \* Car sales showroom
- \* Retractable windows
- \* Good sized forecourt
- \* Separate enclosed yard
- \* Open fronted workshop

**Offers in the region of £200,000****Oldbury****Unit A Portway Road**

- \* Industrial unit/warehouse
- \* WC and small office
- \* Two vehicular roller shutter doors
- \* Forecourt parking
- \* Rear parking/storage area
- \* GIA: 194.57 sq.m. (2,094 sq.ft.) approx.
- \* EPC = E

**Annual rent of £8,000**

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Property

# £110,000 wanted for this traditional three-bed house



The house located in Old Park Road is on the market with the Sedgley branch of Skitts, call 01902 686868

**OFFERS in the region of £110,000 are being invited for this traditional three bedroom semi-detached house in Old Park Road, Dudley.**

In a popular residential area, the house is close to a range of amenities including shops, schools and public

transport services and though in need of some modernisation, comes with heating, double glazing where specified and garden to the rear.

On the ground floor is a sitting room, 13ft 3in by 11ft 5in, with a living room 11ft 4in by 10ft 4in and kitchen measuring 6ft 7in by 5ft 3in with single drainer stainless steel sink, base unit and work top with a lean-top verandah

with plumbing for automatic washing machine.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath with electric shower, pedestal wash basin and WC. The rear garden has a patio area and lawn.

For further information or to arrange a viewing call Sedgley Skitts, 01902 686868.



The price of this detached in Gornal Wood has been reduced to £219,950 by Skitts

## Reduced price for distinctive home

REDUCED to £219,950, this distinctive family home in Brick Kiln Lane, Gornal Wood, is for sale with no upward chain.

Situated in a sought after area, the property benefits from central heating, double glazing and a range of features including living room with feature fireplace, spacious dining kitchen, downstairs WC, integral garage, three double bedrooms, shower room, burglar alarm and enclosed rear garden.

The house is approached over an asphalt driveway with parking for numerous vehicles past a lawned area to a garage, while on the ground floor is a downstairs WC with

wash hand basin and a living room – 14ft by 13ft 9in – with coal-effect gas fire in marble type surround and hearth.

The dining kitchen, 20ft by 11ft 4in, has a range of base and wall units, single drainer stainless steel sink, roll-edge work surfaces, integrated oven with four ring electric hob and cooker hood, with a dining area with gas fire.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a shower room with cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

The garage has plumbing for an automatic washing machine, with the rear garden having a paved patio area, lawn, flowers and shrubs.

Telephone Skitts on 01902 686868.

## Hicks Hadley

hickshadley.com  
0121 585 6688

Halesowen Office

EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£750 pcm**  
Centrally located to Halesowen. This immaculate property which is not to be missed features 4 good size bedrooms, 1 large reception room, fitted kitchen with dishwasher and fridge freezer, house bathroom with shower, conservatory, block paved driveway and garage.

EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.

EPC: TBC



**BEARWOOD, St Marys Road£625 pcm**  
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terrace house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. Available now.

EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, The Rookery£595 pcm**  
Set in a lovely cul-de-sac and a highly sought after location. This 2 bedroom house features a modern fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, great size lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking for 2 cars and a large rear garden.

EPC: D



**STOURBRIDGE, Wheeler Street£595 pcm**  
A traditional 3 bedroom mid terrace property in the highly sought after Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Featuring front reception room with original marble fireplace, rear reception room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 large double bedrooms and 1 large single. Lovely rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. On road parking.

EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Graham Road£595 pcm**  
A 3 bed traditional semi detached house in a cul-de-sac location. An ideal position for Blackheath Town Centre and access for the M5. This unfurnished property features a lovely entrance hall, lounge with bay window, dining/kitchen, 2 doubles and 1 single bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway, rear garden.

EPC: D



**ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive£595 pcm**  
A very well presented mid terrace house on a popular road, with a local bus stop right outside. This large home features 2 good size double bedrooms and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden. On road parking.

EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive£595 pcm**  
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A well presented semi-detached home briefly featuring 3 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, spacious lounge, dining room, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, unfurnished.

EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£595 pcm**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.

EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£575 pcm**  
A modern furnished 1st floor apartment comprises 2 double bedrooms, excellent natural light in lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden. On road parking.

EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Whitefriars Drive£550 pcm**  
A modern furnished 1st floor apartment in a popular cul-de-sac and close to Halesowen Town Centre. Briefly featuring gas central heating, 1 reception room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking.

EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hope Street£550 pcm**  
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment having spacious lounge, refitted kitchen with integrated oven and hob, 3 bedrooms, refitted bathroom and newly fitted carpets. The apartment has a garage and gardens to front and rear, full double glazing and gas central heating.

EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Fairmile Road£525 pcm**  
Beautifully furnished. Situated in a popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town. This modern furnished 1st floor apartment comprises 2 double bedrooms, excellent natural light in lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens.

EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road£485 pcm**  
An unfurnished split level flat on a sought after road. Ideal for Howley Grange Primary School and for Birmingham. This property features a utility room, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, garden.

EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£475 pcm**  
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. Available now.

EPC: C



**BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street£475 pcm**  
Located within walking distance to Briery Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern end terrace house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.

EPC: E



**WORDSLEY, John Street£450 pcm**  
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This extremely large and spacious 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.

EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£440 pcm**  
A wonderfully furnished 1st floor flat within walking distance to Old Hill shops and train station. This property comprises a light and airy living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 1 double bedroom, and bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, allocated parking.

EPC: F



**LYE, High Street £425 pcm**  
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking.

EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£400 pcm**  
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN.

EPC: E



**CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£395 pcm**  
A modern ground floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill, with local bus stop outside and Old Hill Train Station close by. Featuring 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, shower room, allocated parking, unfurnished.

Halesowen Office: Lettings & Property Management 0121 585 6688



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Belbroughton Road, Halesowen



Awaiting EPC

**Offers Over £190,000**

This modern semi detached house on an established and popular residential estate benefits from three bedrooms, drive, garage and rear garden. Halesowen.

Vicarage Road, Halesowen



EPC E

**£144,950**

Detached house offers lounge, dining room, kitchen, WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom, drive and rear garden.

Holly Road, Rowley Regis



EPC C

**Offers Over £140,000**

This modern terraced house has the following accommodation. Lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom and en-suite.



**£170,000**

Modern three bedroom detached house on a popular estate and having distant views to the rear. Includes conservatory, garage and garden.

Linton Road, Cradley Heath



EPC E

**Offers Over £110,000**

This traditional semi detached house comprises lounge, kitchen breakfast room, two bedrooms and bathroom. Halesowen.

Victoria Gardens, Cradley Heath



EPC C

**£106,950**

A two bedroom terraced house with accommodation comprising lounge, fitted kitchen and family bathroom. Rear garden and parking.

Lyde Green, Halesowen



EPC C

**Offers Over £70,000**

One bedroom first floor flat with a recently re-fitted kitchen and bathroom. The property also has an en bloc garage. Halesowen.

Donnington Court, Dudley



EPC C

**Offers Over £150,000**

Extended well presented semi detached three bedroom property comprising entrance porch, lounge/diner, kitchen and family bathroom.

Jonah Drive, Tipton



Awaiting EPC

**Offers Over £145,000**

End terraced three bedroom property. Two reception rooms, rear garden, allocated parking and garage.

Shenley Avenue, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

**Offers Over £140,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs WC, bathroom, gardens, driveway and garage.

Maragret Vale, Tipton



Awaiting EPC

**Offers Over £140,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property. Lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Northway, Dudley



EPC E

**£140,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, garden, driveway and garage.

Cromwell Drive, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

**£120,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Brookfield Way, Tipton



Awaiting EPC

**Offers Over £110,000**

Mid terraced three bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and parking to the side.

Poplar Green, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

**Offers Over £100,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, downstairs WC, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.



# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Mirage turns out to be a delightful reality

IMAGINE you are trekking across a desert and you've drunk the last of your water. Desperate to slake your thirst there in the distance is a shimmering lifesaver – an oasis.

Freshwater surrounded by palm trees. But get closer and it turns out to be yet another pile of sand, a mirage.

Imagine your car has finally given up the ghost and you need to replace those wheels very quickly. You spot a car on a forecourt called a Mirage and from a distance it looks delightful, tempting you to go closer. As you approach it gets better and better and it doesn't melt away into nothingness.

When you open the door and climb inside the Mirage is exactly the opposite to the meaning of the word, an optical illusion which is unobtainable. For this car from Mitsubishi is certainly no illusion and is certainly attainable with a price tag starting at £8,999.

Well enough of all that flowery talk and let's get down to the meat of this small car, a return to Mitsubishi's roots of producing quality cars in this sector. It's the car that replaced the Colt and is stylish and well equipped. On top of that it produces less than 100 grams of CO2 which means it's zero-rated for Vehicle Excise Duty and if you take it to London there's no congestion charge. And you won't be taking a bank loan to pay for fuel as you get between 65.7 and 68.9mpg across the range, as I discovered. Too often those fuel claims are optimistic for normal use in day-to-day driving but not so here.

The Mirage is powered by a new generation



Compact with a well laid out control panel – the Mirage 3 automatic model



This new good-looker from Mitsubishi takes over from the ever popular Colt

of lightweight small petrol engines with two choices. A very low and frugal 1-litre on the Mirage 1, and the 1.2-litre, 3-cylinder engine that has a stop and go feature as standard, which I tested and thoroughly enjoyed.

The 1-litre will give you 71ps and the 1.2-litre 80ps which was ample to get me about. A 5-speed manual transmission is standard and there's a CVT auto on the top specification vehicle. And that CVT is an excellent worker.

The three trim levels of Mirage are designed to appeal to buyers on all manner of budgets and with all kinds of requirements.

The entry-level 1.0-litre version of the car may be the base model but it's still packed with a host of equipment. Included are front electric windows; side air dams; a tyre repair kit; AM/FM radio/CD with two speakers; a glovebox USB terminal and stability and traction control. Next in the range is Mirage 2 which

comes with the 1.2 manual engine. This adds a host of extras, the main one of which is arguably Mitsubishi's clever Auto Stop & Go system. There's a seat height adjuster for the driver; rain-sensing wipers; privacy glass, autolights and bright interior door handles. Other features that are sure to appeal include air conditioning, a pollen filter, electric door mirrors and an outside temperature gauge.

Mirage 3, available with either automatic or

manual transmission, includes everything Mirage 2 has to offer plus front fog lamps, a leather steering wheel and gear knob and a keyless entry system with push-button start. Automatic air-conditioning with a pollen filter enhances the package still further, as do the front fog lamps. Mitsubishi took note of buyers' needs on safety and that worked with it gaining good marks with Euro NCAP giving Mirage a very high 4-star rating.

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From total makeovers and clearances to decking and fencing

**Guaranteed lowest prices**

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## Gardening

**ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES**

\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal

\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes

\*Fencing \*Turfing \*Concreting \*Driveways & Patios

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**Garador Up and Over**

To include: Steel frame, basic trim and site clearance

Fully fitted at **£430**

**£430**

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To include: Steel frame, basic trim and site clearance

Fully fitted at **£430**

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### Why Pay Main Dealer Prices?

#### Crossways Motor Bodies

- Motor Body Work Specialists
- Insurance Approved
- From a minor bump to major repairs
- **FREE** local pick up and delivery
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**Low Prices**  
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Installation and Repair  
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• Bathrooms Suites  
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- Tap repairs • Overflows • Tanks
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- Specialists in Combination Boilers
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### SIM HEATING SOLUTIONS

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Complete central heating installation  
A Rated (Combi boiler, 7 radiators) from **£1900**  
LPG Work Now Being Undertaken  
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TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER

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• Blackheath

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### ROB'S RUBBISH

A CHEAP RUBBISH

REMOVAL 7 DAYS

Small Jobs

**NO PROBLEM**

We load, No Skips

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Garden, Household, Shed,

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Goods, House Clearances

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pet grooming

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CAT GROOMING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE.

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• Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge  
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Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

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Fast and friendly service from a family run

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**SPECIALISTS IN TILE, SLATE,**

fibreglass flat roofing, flat felt roofing, uPVC,

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Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate,  
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**FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE**

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

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IN HALESOWEN

Minis - Midis

The best in the West

**0121 561 5493**

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All types of General Repairs

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Also interior and exterior

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To advertise your business and reach over 50,000 potential customers....

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Call us on...  
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**2**

E-mail us at...  
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**3**

Post to...  
Ryan Cooper, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake  
Regional Centre, West Bromwich. B70 0QB



# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

## Free Ads

# IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**

## VISIT:

[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
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## Place a paid for advert



By Phone  
**01902 317878**  
8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri. Closed Sat/Sun.



Online  
[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)



In person  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

## 1 Family

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**SMART TUITION SERVICES**  
Tuition for 11+ and key stage 3/4  
maths & science. £12/ hour.  
(Smetweth based) 07736713735.

### elderly & disabled

**ADJUSTAMATIC** double bed.  
Sleepmaster, excellent. £550. £500  
if collected. 01902 454694.

**FOOT ABLE** - Struggling to reach  
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[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

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folds into car boot, includes basket  
and bag, good condition. £250 ono.  
07528 186840. 9am-5pm.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350  
can deliver, servicing available.  
Call: Powerlink. Blackheath 01384  
255019 / 07831 246292.

**RIO MOBILITY SCOOTER**, very  
good condition, 3 wheeler  
Shopridr, folds for car. £350 ono.  
Telephone 01902 653337.

**WHEELCHAIR** Lightweight, Red, for  
occasional use, folds down, good  
condition. £50 ono. 07528 186840.  
9am-5pm.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
tioned lifts from £500. Plus New  
Lifts. 01952 405397/07897 273617

### toys

**KIDS RIDE ON ASTON**  
**MARTIN STYLE CAR**

6v, fully working speakers,  
lights and MP3 input and  
parental remote, age 2+,  
approximately 114 x 54cm.

£100.  
07943 855863.

## 2 Leisure Time

### car boot sales

**BEST BOOT SALE**  
**SUPER MARKETS**

**Saturday 8am - 1pm**  
A454, Rudge Heath, between  
Wton & bridgnorth, WV6 7EE

**Saturday 10am - 2pm**  
Barraclough lane, popular farm,  
Between Walsall & Lichfield,  
WS9 9DL

**Sunday 8am - 1pm**  
Cockspanrow lane, Carnock,  
WS12 4PB

**Wednesday 10am start**  
Pouk lane, Muckley corner,  
Between Walsall & Lichfield,  
WS14 0ET  
[www.bestbootsale.com](http://www.bestbootsale.com)  
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**CANDY CART** for hire, lovely addition  
to any celebration, for further  
information contact 07507 642975  
or nicola.a.jones@btinternet.com

### function rooms

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Powerleague 01384 266000  
halesowen@powerleague.co.uk

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**and General Clothing**  
**Alterations for Ladies**  
**and Gents**

Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
9.30am - 4.00pm  
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**0121 585 0890**

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Seasons and static caravan sale  
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2-Berth, 1998, full awning.  
£2,000 ono. 07504 372111.

**AVONDALE DART 380/2**  
2000, 2 berth, 13ft, full oven, fly-  
screens, blinds, awning, inner  
tent, remote motor, levelling  
blocks, much more equipment,  
excellent condition.  
£2,300.  
Telephone 07732 276794.

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**LIMOUSIN**  
Series 7, 2008, luxury 4-berth,  
fixed bed, twin axle, large end  
bathroom, awning, many  
extras, immaculate condition,  
£8,995.  
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**SPRITE ALPINE**  
2006, lightweight, 4-berth, fixed  
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2004, 2 berth, excellent condi-  
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24 berth, no pets, Non Smokers.  
motor mover, extras, excellent  
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**35x12FT 6 BERTH CARAVAN**  
Small, quiet rural site. Excellent  
condition. UPVC verandah and  
ramp, patio and parking area. Suit  
semi / retired. £13,995 inc all fees.  
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All Caravans Wanted  
Any Age or Condition  
\*CASH WAITING\*  
Immediate collection  
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

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JUMBLE SALE  
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Catholic Church  
Halesowen Road, Old Hill  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5  
at 10.45am.

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SEVEN PIECE drum kit, all black,  
3 stands and snare and Hi hat  
stand, great condition. £550.  
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£2,000 ono. 07504 372111.

**AVONDALE DART 380/2**  
2000, 2 berth, 13ft, full oven, fly-  
screens, blinds, awning, inner  
tent, remote motor, levelling  
blocks, much more equipment,  
excellent condition.  
£2,300.  
Telephone 07732 276794.

**BAILEY PAGEANT**  
**LIMOUSIN**  
Series 7, 2008, luxury 4-berth,  
fixed bed, twin axle, large end  
bathroom, awning, many  
extras, immaculate condition,  
£8,995.  
07884 074389.

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2006, lightweight, 4-berth, fixed  
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winter cover, removable  
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2004, 2 berth, excellent condi-  
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£5,300 ono.  
01384 248829.

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 520 SE 03**,  
24 berth, no pets, Non Smokers.  
motor mover, extras, excellent  
condition £5,170. 01743 354007.

**35x12FT 6 BERTH CARAVAN**  
Small, quiet rural site. Excellent  
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semi / retired. £13,995 inc all fees.  
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All Caravans Wanted  
Any Age or Condition  
\*CASH WAITING\*  
Immediate collection  
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**HALF PRICE**  
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Never been used. Unwanted  
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4 solid wooden chairs, hardly used,  
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with 6 matching chairs (including  
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Top Soil,  
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Delivered Bagged or Loose  
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propelled electric mower, new,  
cost £499, a bargain at £275. Ring  
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Outfront type or zero turn. Would  
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## Jubilant Heathens in final of knockout

**King's Lynn 44  
Dudley Heathens 46  
Dudley win 102-78 on aggregate**

JUBILANT Dudley Heathens are through to their second successive Knockout Cup Final after a stunning win at King's Lynn.

Heathens already carried a 22 point lead from the first leg and it was another superb night for the men in Green, Red and White.

After suffering Grand Final heartache in the competition last year, team boss Will Pottinger is relishing the chance to seize glory this time around.

Said Pottinger: "We're absolutely delighted with the result - it was a great team effort with everybody contributing."

"We're looking forward to the final now, and hopefully we can manage to go one step further than last year."

Skipper Ashley Morris top scored, with solid support from fellow heat leaders Paul Starke and Lewis Blackbird. But it was at reserve that the match was won as both Dan Greenwood and Nathan Greaves enjoyed superb evenings.

KING'S LYNN 44: Robert Lambert 15, Lewis Kerr 10+2, Jake Knight 8+2, Darren Mallett 7+1, Shane Hazelden 2+1, Shane Waldron 2, Lewis Rose R/R.

DUDLEY 46: Ashley Morris 13, Nathan Greaves 9+2, Dan Greenwood 7+2, Paul Starke 7, Lewis Blackbird 7, Max Clegg 3+2, Gareth Isherwood 0.

## TV pundit Claridge is star speaker

BBC TV pundit and ex-Wolves player Steve Claridge will be the speaker at a Sportsman's Evening at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground on Friday, October 25.

Claridge also has extensive knowledge of the non-league scene, having been player-manager at Weymouth previously and he also helped Gosport Borough to win the first of their back-to-back promotions in 2012.

The Sportsman's Evening at the Glassboys Bar will also feature a comedian.

Doors open at 7 pm and hot food will be served at around 8 pm. Tickets are £25. Please contact chairman Andy Pountney on 07870 275001 or e-mail him at andyp@andypfreight.co.uk

# Success at the double for polished Varnish



Jess Varnish with her gold medal

JESS VARNISH claimed her second title of the week, following up her success in the women's 500m time trial with success in the sprint race at the British Cycling National Track Championships, Manchester.

Twenty-two-year-old Varnish qualified fastest and went undefeated on her way to the final before overcoming Great Britain team-mate Victoria Williamson (VC Norwich) by two heats to nil.

Katy Marchant, in her first nationals since switching from heptathlon to cycling, was pushed hard by double junior world champion Dannielle Khan but

### Cycling

took bronze in straight heats.

"I'm really happy with the sprint win because it's something I've been working on," said Varnish, who is still on course to replicate Becky James' four title wins achieved in 2012's competition.

The Halesowen Cycling Club rider, who has missed most of the season through injury but set a lifetime best in qualifying, will also compete in the team sprint and keirin over the weekend.

Sam Harrison walked away

with the gold medal in the men's scratch, beating Olympic champion Ed Clancy into second, with Steven Burke collecting the bronze.

Olympic champions Laura Trott and Jason Kenny proved their calibre by winning gold on day three.

Trott followed up her success in the women's individual pursuit with glory in the points race, with the 21-year-old, who also won double gold at the World Championships in February in Minsk, finishing ahead of Dani King and Elinor Barker. Kenny, a three-time Olympic gold medallist, held

off the challenge of Matthew Crampton in the men's keirin, with Lewis Oliva coming third.

World keirin champion Kenny (Sky Track Cycling) added the British title to his global crown.

"It was nitty gritty on Matt's wheel in third place, I was just happy to hold station knowing Matt (Crampton) was one of the race favourites," said Kenny.

"The national keirin championship is always tight so going to the front quite early on I was a bit of a sitting duck. Lewis went down the inside and pushed me out wide so I had no choice in going to the front."

# Lining up for final as Blackbird soars away

**Isle of Wight 43 Dudley Heathens 47**

**(Dudley win 106-74 on aggregate)**

**DUDLEY secured their place in the National League grand final by beating the Isle of Wight on their own shale.**

Carrying a hefty 28-point lead to the second leg at Smallbrook, the in-form Heathens finished the job in style with victory on the night to secure a second successive place in the final, writes Rich Jones.

Lewis Blackbird's superb 13-point haul on his return to the No.1 race jacket headed a fine team performance.

He got his side off to a perfect start by spearheading an opening race 4-2 before taking a vital win in heat 13. He also helped wrap up victory on the night by joining with Paul Starke for a heat 15 4-2, although Blackbird was unable to complete a memorable maximum as he took third place.

### Upturn

While Blackbird topped the scorechart with an eye-catching display, youngster Nathan Greaves continued his upturn in form at reserve to bolster the lower order. The 15-year-old recorded three race wins to be paid for double figures.

After winning his opening ride he joined forces with No.2 Dan Greenwood for Heathens' only 5-1 in the ninth race of the evening to all but end any hopes of a miraculous Isle of Wight comeback.

Blackbird and Greaves combined for seven of the

### Speedway

visitors' eight race wins while Starke and Ashley Morris both put in composed performances.

Greenwood battled hard for little reward as he moved back to the main body, suffering a fall while on a 5-1 with Blackbird in his final ride on the fast, swooping Smallbrook circuit.

Wight were led by former Heathens favourite Tom Perry and Steve Worrall, but lost ex-Dudley man Darryl Ritchings due to an ankle injury in his opening ride.

King's Lynn were due to host Mildenhall on Wednesday in the other semi-final looking to overcome an eight-point deficit.

**Isle of Wight:** Tom Perry 15+1, Steve Worrall 13, Danny Stoneman 9+1, Chris Widman 3+1, Brendan Johnson 3+1, Darryl Ritchings 0.

**Dudley:** Lewis Blackbird 13, Paul Starke 10, Nathan Greaves 9+2, Ashley Morris 8, Dan Greenwood 4, Gareth Isherwood 2+2, Max Clegg 1+1.

## Players are bowled over by new-look uniform



Members of the BCBC in their new-look club T-shirts. The club is also looking for new recruits

BOWLERS will be kitted in new colours when their season gets under way next year.

The Black Country Bowls Club is the largest flat green bowls club in the Dudley borough with more than 60 members.

The club has ditched its traditional white shirts and club ties in favour of

new T-shirts in club colours. The outdoor season has drawn to a close, with the new season set to start in April.

New members are welcome to join the club, which plays on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, as well as three evenings a week on the flat green behind Wollescote Hall, in

Wollescote Park, Pedmore.

Home and away matches are played against clubs in Worcestershire, Warwickshire, South Staffs and Shropshire, while games are also played during bowling trips away.

To join, or for further information, call secretary Brian Simmonds on 01384 831019.

## Four in a row as trophy is retained

SWIMMERS from Halesowen Swimming club travelled to Braunstone for the annual trophy gala.

The club were defending and hoping to make it four victories in a row. By the halfway mark Halesowen A found themselves in second place by just two points. With 10 events to go they nudged in front and following a string of strong performances ran out winners by seven points.

Double event winners were Kate Morrice, freestyle and butterfly, Jakob Baker for the breaststroke and butterfly and Josh Bradley in the individual medley and breaststroke.

Individual winners were Sam Bradley-Wood in the backstroke, Chloe Finch, Lauren Hill, Mark Laing and Luke Morris in the butterfly, Ruby Hanke in the breaststroke and Zach Collins and Jack Simpson in the freestyle. The relay teams were strong with the girls age 11 and under team winning both freestyle and medley events.

Also unbeatable were the age 13 and under girls and boys teams and the open mens team.

Final point scores were Halesowen 245, Braunstone A 238, Melton Mowbray 175, Market Harborough 144, Colville 121, Braunstone B 119.

## George get bowls glory

**Mitchell Cup Final  
The George 230  
Kings Heath Park 175**

LAST Sunday The George first team took on Premier Division One rivals Kings Heath Park in the final of the Mitchell Cup.

The away leg at Kings Heath was a close affair with The George just coming out on top by 104 shots to 100.

Marc Wilson (21-8), Jamie Dunn (21-12) and Stewart Meddings (21-17) were the winners for The George.

The George dominated the home leg winning by 126 shots to 75.

Paul Greene (21-6), Steve Darling (21-11), Paddy McGuinness (21-12), Elliot McGuinness (21-13), Phil Clinton (21-14) and Mick McGuinness (21-19) all won to give The George victory by a total margin of 55 shots.

This Sunday The George take on Shropshire side Newport in the final of the prestigious Free Press Cup at Woodfield Bowling Club, Wolverhampton (2pm).

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Players bowled  
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**Max power**  
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Defeat is  
the end  
to 10 out  
of 10 run

## Black Country 2 Dudley Sports 3

SPORTS' victory brought Black Country's perfect 10 out of 10 spree to an end. BC started at a pace and Sports did well to keep in the game. As the game progressed Sports started to find their feet and put pressure on the BC goal and it was no surprise when Liam Morris headed home from a Dan Evans' cross.

Evans had a great chance to make it two shortly after but shot straight at the keeper. BC drew level when Richard Oakley scored from close range.

BC went in front at half time with a Leigh Pardoe finish after Sports' keeper had saved Aggar's original shot.

In the second half Sports were dogged in their defending. And when that was breached they found Dom Richards in the Sports' goal in fine form.

Sports missed a penalty on 80 minutes when Ashley Parsons-Smith shot straight at the keeper.

Not to be outdone Sports drew level when Dan Evans volleyed in a cross from Mantom. BC pressed but could not break through a stubborn sports rear guard. Sports claimed all three points in the last minute when Jay Broomhall's 30 yard cross shot went into the top corner.

## Wolves dig in on Sako deal

WOLVES are refusing to budge in their bottom-line demand for Bakary Sako under fresh pressure from Nottingham Forest.

Forest, who failed in a last-ditch bid to sign the French winger on transfer deadline day, are now trying to push through a deal which would see them take the Wolves star on loan and then complete a permanent deal when the January transfer window opens.

Wolves are mindful of Sako's ambitions to play in the Premier League and accept the commercial reality of their position in the proposed deal - but are sticking by their £3.5m valuation of the player.

The club have yet to receive an offer from Forest to satisfy those demands and there remain serious doubts at Molineux that the transfer will be completed.

A guarded Jez Moxey said: "The situation hasn't changed."

# Jubilant Whiley regains British No 1 ranking

## Wheelchair tennis

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley has reached a new career high women's singles world ranking and regained the British No.1 ranking after finishing runner-up in both the women's singles and women's doubles at the Sardinia Open at the weekend.

Whiley is now looking forward to making her debut in the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters, the year-end championship for the world's leading players, in November.

Whiley was second seed in Alghero, where she reached the women's singles semi-finals with ease, but she had a much tougher task in her last four match, eventually beating her Dutch doubles partner Sharon Wal-

raven 5-7, 6-4, 6-3. Whiley put up another good effort in the final, but found German top seed and world No. 2 Sabine Ellerbrock just that bit better on the day as Ellerbrock claimed her third successive Sardinia Open title 6-3, 6-4.

Nevertheless, Whiley has moved up one place to a new career high of No. 7 this week, pushing previous British No. 1 Lucy Shuker down one place as she goes above Shuker for the first time since February 2012.

Ellerbrock was again on the opposite side

of the net as the women's doubles title eluded Whiley and Walraven, who opened their challenge with a 6-0, 6-0 win and then defeated 2012 runners-up Gabriela Buehler and Karin Suter-Erath of Switzerland 6-1, 6-3. Ellerbrock and Italy's Marianna Laurò had the edge in the final, to win their second title in three tournaments 6-3, 7-6(4).

"Sabine played really well in the final it came down to me hitting a few too many short balls that she was able to put away, so I'll know to look out for that next time, but I'm so happy with my new ranking and to come British No 1 again," said Whiley, who already had one win over the German

former world No. 1 under her belt, having beaten Ellerbrock in the semi-finals of the Atlanta Open earlier this year.

Whiley's win over world No. 9 Walraven in the semi-finals in Sardinia and her move one place ahead of former British No. 1 Lucy Shuker reinforces her place among the world's top eight women's singles players, which earned her qualification to make her debut at the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters in California in early November.

Whiley will also contest the Doubles Masters in California, partnering Japan's Yui Kamiji, with whom Whiley reached the women's doubles final at Wimbledon.

Thomas  
gets spot  
in the final

KRISTIAN THOMAS insists he has put his injury nightmare behind him after landing a vault final spot at the Gymnastics World Championship.

The Wolverhampton Olympian reached this weekend's final in Antwerp after finishing fourth in the qualifiers. A fractured leg forced him out of the European Championships in April but he recovered to make the British squad in time to compete in Belgium.

He missed the cut for the high bars final finishing 10th when anywhere in the top eight would have netted him a spot. But after clinching his final place with a score of 14.933, following vaults of 15.233 and 14.633, the Olympic bronze medalist is out to cap a difficult year with a medal.

Thomas said "I'm delighted to make the vault final after having a difficult year with injury. I will be doing the same vaults and just hope to stick the landing more cleanly, then you know."

Thomas' team-mates, Max Whitlock and Dan Purvis also clinched final spots but European pommel champion Dan Keatings missed out.

## Great Scott wins gold once more

HALESOWEN para-cycling star Helen Scott claimed a second win in as many days at the British National Track Championships.

Sighted pilot Scott, who won a silver and bronze in last year's Paralympics, won the 200m tandem flying time trial with Sophie Thornhill in Manchester.

It added to their 100m time trial win the day before.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, October 3, 2013.

# GOAL-SPREE YELTZ INTO NEXT ROUND

## FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round Halesowen Town 5 Tipton Town 0

**HALESOWEN stormed into the third qualifying round of the FA Cup with a convincing 5-0 victory in front of a bumper crowd.**

There was also plenty of local pride at stake with Halesowen manager John Hill facing his former club and several of his players having links to Tipton manager Ian Rowe.

The energetic Yeltz blitzed the Midland Alliance visitors from the start. A ninth-minute drive from Tom Tonks rebounded off the inside of post.

Iyseden Christie had three attempts on goal but Halesowen gained a 21st minute lead when Tipton captain Chris Waterhouse headed into his own net under pressure from a long Tonks throw-in.

## Bursting

Neil MacKenzie doubled the home lead after 34 minutes by bursting forward to drill home from 15 yards. Tipton were restricted to just a few half chances with Mensah Kinch providing the main danger.

Halesowen's leading striker Ben Haseley then turned the screw on Tipton with a superb second-half hat-trick. Haseley made it 3-0 by tapping into an empty net after leaving goalkeeper Matthew Martin stranded out of his area from a 52nd minute long ball. Hard-working Chris Lait then saw his

## by

67th-minute volley tipped over the Tipton bar.

Haseley's second goal proved memorable as he latched on to Kristian Green's 74th minute clearance to lob home a fabulous half volley from more than 30 yards.

Haseley was denied again by a good 87th-minute save but completed his hat-trick by side-footing home substitute Nigel Penney's cross in the 89th minute.

**Halesowen Town:** Sam Pearson; Kristian Green, Adam Meacham, Neil MacKenzie (Joe Hull 65 (Nigel Penney 83), Chris Lait, Brendan Kelly (c), Matthew Martin, Tom Tonks (Jean-Michel Queyos 74), Iyseden Christie, Ben Haseley, Elliott Turner. Unused

**Subs:** Matt Fulloway, Ryan Andrews (GK).

**Tipton Town:** Matthew Martin; Joe Rogers, Rob Perks, Paul Henley, Chris Waterhouse (c), Mike Perks (Ayadmillad Youssif 70), Mensah Kinch, Lee Wherton, Danny Ashton (Ben Hadley 55), Marvin Nisbett, Chris Rabone (Justin Nixon 55). Unused

**Subs:** Graham Ashton, Danny Crudgington, Wes Cox (GK).

**Referee:** Aki Howson

**Attendance:** 421.

## Lucky 13 as Halesowen pull out all the stops



Haley Chatwin goes for goal as the Yeltz Ladies racked up a baker's dozen against Woodstar

## Woodstar 0

### Halesowen Ladies 13

HALESOWEN, with a week's break, travelled to Walsall Wood to take on Woodstar who had just revamped their squad.

A tough game was anticipated but the Yeltz crew raised their game and put in a terrific performance.

In the first 15 minutes there were no goals and it could have gone either way. However striker Sian Whithall scored four goals in less than half an hour with some neat finishing and outstanding team play.

Captain Lyndsey Glover scored twice before half time to complete the 30 minutes of devastation of Woodstar.

Halesowen were 6-0 at half time and looking comfortable but the manager requested more of the same. Haley Chatwin scored in the first minute of the second half with neat work from Rachel Letford.

Midfielder Sarah Hammily scored her first Yeltz goal with a neat finish and Sabrina Dale set up Letford who got a second half hat-trick. Skipper Glover finished the rout with a well-

taken penalty late on. Manager Scott Mckee said: "To describe every goal would take far too long but simply to say the team performance was outstanding."

"I now expect this for every game. I must also state how strong the defence were as the score doesn't reflect how good Woodstar are."

"Stand-in keeper Lauren Gilberto was always there if required. A very good performance from the Yeltz squad."

Halesowen face Walsall development next week.

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